

NF 100-6833

LEADS

Information copies are designated for Alexandria, Baltimore, Chicago, and WFO in view of their investigative interests in this matter.

NORFOLK DIVISION

AT VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA. (1) Will interview Mrs. [REDACTED] b2c  
Road, wife of [REDACTED], United States  
Navy, prisoner of war (POW).

(2) Will reinterview Mrs. [REDACTED]  
wife of [REDACTED] missing in action  
(MIA), [REDACTED] pursuant to Baltimore airtel  
dated 7/21/70.

EC 12812-2

(3) Will recontact Mrs. [REDACTED] b7c  
[REDACTED] of the National League of  
Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast  
Asia, at [REDACTED]

AT NORFOLK, VIRGINIA. Will interview Mrs.  
[REDACTED] wife of [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] United States Air Force, prisoner  
of war. b7c

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

DATE 7-29-93 9803 [REDACTED] b2c

Report of:  
Date:SA [REDACTED]  
8/31/70

Office: Norfolk, Virginia

Field Office File #:

100-6833

Bureau File #: 100-457899

Title:

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF  
SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)

Character:

INTERNAL SECURITY - MISCELLANEOUS;  
REGISTRATION ACT

Synopsis:

Various wives of prisoners of war (POW) in North Vietnam advised they have received correspondence from COLIFAM and COLIFAM has forwarded them letters from their husbands. [REDACTED] Virginia, advised she met Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ of COLIFAM who discussed its formation, but she could not recall details.

- P -

DETAILS:

On August 13, 1970, Special Agent [REDACTED] Naval Investigative Service Office, Norfolk, Virginia, advised that his office is in possession of only public source material concerning COLIFAM which has appeared in the local newspapers. He stated that he is aware that various wives of prisoners of war (POW) and men missing in action (MIA) have had dealings with COLIFAM, but these wives have not furnished any information to his office.

The August 13, 1970, issue of the Virginian-Pilot, a daily newspaper published in Norfolk, Virginia, contains an article which indicates that Mrs. LOUISE MULLIGAN, wife of Commander JAMES ALFRED MULLIGAN, Jr., United States Navy, who is a prisoner of war, was made Virginia state coordinator of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia. She had been the League's coordinator at a four-state area, and she related that the move means the

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

NF 100-6833

League has coordinators in all 50 states making it a fully national, chartered nonprofit organization. She related that she will work with concerned citizens and state and civic organizations to call attention to the plight of families of prisoners of war and men missing in action.

The article further indicates that Mrs. IRIS R. POWERS of Lutz, Florida, mother of a missing Army warrant officer, is the national coordinator located in Washington, D. C.

Mrs. MUKLIGAN of Virginia Beach, Virginia, stated that the League would hold a national convention in Washington October 2-5, 1970. The article indicates she stated, "We have requested a joint session of Congress (to be held during the national convention) be held so that wives and mothers can speak to make all aware of the prisoner issue." The League plans to establish a nationwide speakers bureau and initiate a national billboard project to emphasize and improve the public's understanding of the plight of the families whose men are missing in action. The League's primary objectives are to secure humane treatment of prisoners, stimulate continuing world concern about their fate, improve the flow of information about them, and eventually secure their release.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 7/31/70

1

Mrs. [REDACTED] Virginia,  
 advised her husband [REDACTED] has been declared a prisoner of war (POW). She belongs to the National League of Families of American Prisoners in Southeast Asia. She attended a meeting of that group on the night of March 24, 1970, at the residence of Mrs. [REDACTED] in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Also at this meeting was Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ, affiliated with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM). She believes Reverend FERNANDEZ discussed the formation of COLIFAM and outlined how the committee was set up. She could not furnish specific details in this regard.

She said Mrs. ETHEL TAYLOR from COLIFAM called her on the telephone long-distance from New York on April 3, 1970, and told her that her husband was a confirmed POW of Hanoi, and she said that a letter from her husband would probably soon follow. She never received the letter and has received no letters from her husband. She said she was not harassed or cajoled. She has not had any mail or personal objects from her husband delivered to her or brought back to her.

Approximately five weeks after receiving the phone call from Mrs. TAYLOR about her husband, [REDACTED] called Reverend FERNANDEZ in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and asked him why she had not received the letter from her husband and he said there were two packets of mail lost.

It is her recollection Mrs. TAYLOR told her she had received a cablegram from Stockholm where North Vietnamese officials had given the list of POWs to Reverend FERNANDEZ and two other members of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam. She cannot say who the other two members were.

She understands Mrs. [REDACTED] Hampton, Virginia, and Mrs. [REDACTED] whose husbands are POWs, were approached in a similar manner in that

- 3 -

On 7/20/70 at [REDACTED] Virginia File # Norfolk 100-6833

by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 7/27/70



NF 100-6833

2

EO 12812-2

624

[REDACTED] received a phone call from the committee and [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] received some letters from her husband through the  
committee. Correspondence she has received from COLIFAM has  
been in the nature of fact sheets. She has not written to the  
committee requesting any information.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 7/31/701

Mrs. [REDACTED] b2c  
 Virginia, advised she formerly resided at [REDACTED]  
 Hampton, until December, 1969. Her husband is [REDACTED]  
 U. S. Air Force, who is a prisoner of war (POW), N-111 VIETNAM.

In March, 1970, she received a phone call from Mrs. CORA WEISS, who she understands is co-chairman of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM), who informed her that she had received a communication from Hanoi with a list of thirty names Hanoi had released as being POWs. This list was released by the committee to the Associated Press a short time later. Mrs. WEISS also told her that within two weeks she would receive a letter from her husband, and the letter came within approximately one month. She was not harassed or cajoled and no questions were asked.

She said in May, 1968, she sent a letter to her husband to some peace group which she had heard about through some Navy wives which would deliver the letters to prisoners, but her husband never received the letter. She does not recall the name of the group.

EO 12812-2

Since receiving the first letter, she has received two other letters from her husband through COLIFAM. b2c

She said Mrs. [REDACTED] and Mrs. [REDACTED] are the only other POW families she knows of who were approached in a similar manner by COLIFAM.

The nature of the correspondence she has received from COLIFAM has been a form letter advising she would receive a letter from her husband. She said she has not written to the committee.

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On 7/22/70 at [REDACTED] Virginia File # Norfolk 100-6833

by SA [REDACTED] b2c Date dictated 7/27/70

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 8/4/70

*b2c*  
Mrs. [REDACTED]  
Virginia, furnished the following information:

*b2c*  
Her husband, [REDACTED] United States Air Force, was declared a Prisoner of War (POW) in November, 1967. In the latter part of December, 1969, she received a letter from her husband; and, enclosed in the same envelope, was a form letter from the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM), which stated that a Mrs. TAYLOR, a member of that committee, had just returned from North Vietnam and brought back the enclosed letter from her husband (Major VOGEL).

*b2c*  
Mrs. [REDACTED] pointed out that she has an unlisted telephone number so she has had no telephone contact, and that the above instance is the first contact she has had from COLIFAM.

In April, 1970, she received three letters from her husband through this same group. Prior to receiving these three letters, she received a letter from COLIFAM saying they were expecting a letter from her husband in a package of letters from Hanoi and that it would be forwarded on to her. She has not received any letters from her husband since April.

EO 12812-2  
She said she has not written to COLIFAM and the correspondence she received from that committee was in the nature of a form letter, as previously mentioned.

*b2c*  
Mrs. [REDACTED] said that Mrs. [REDACTED] and Mrs. [REDACTED] are the only two other POW families she knows of who were approached in a similar manner by COLIFAM.

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On 7/31/70 at [REDACTED] Virginia File # Norfolk 100-6833

*b2c*  
by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 8/3/70

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/12/70

1

[REDACTED] b2c  
[REDACTED] Virginia, advised she is the wife of [REDACTED] who was shot down over North Vietnam, [REDACTED] 1967, and is a prisoner of war in North Vietnam. She stated that her husband is a pilot in the United States Air Force. She stated that she is aware that Mrs. [REDACTED] b2c Virginia Beach, Virginia, whose husband likewise is a prisoner of war, in March, 1970, gathered a group of wives at her residence in Virginia Beach to meet with Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ, who is affiliated with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM).

b2c  
Mrs. [REDACTED] stated she did not attend this meeting and has never met Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ. Likewise she has never been contacted by anyone from COLIFAM.

She stated that in December, 1969, she sent a letter to COLIFAM so that this letter could be taken to Hanoi by ETHEL TAYLOR of the National Service Division, American Friends Service Committee, 160 North 15th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. E012812-2

b2c  
On March 18, 1970, she sent a letter and package for ultimate delivery to her husband which she addressed to Lieutenant Colonel GORDON HAGGERT [REDACTED] Colonel HAGGERT is the Prisoner of War, Liaison Officer at the Pentagon for the U. S. Air Force. It was her understanding that he was going to arrange the delivery of the letter and package to Hanoi by Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ.

b2c  
On November 30, 1969, Mrs. [REDACTED] stated she sent a letter to Mrs. WILLIAM TAYLOR, 1505 Ashford Way, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for ultimate delivery to her husband in North Vietnam. She stated Mrs. TAYLOR is affiliated with COLIFAM.

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On 7/31/70 at [REDACTED] Virginia File # Norfolk 100-6833

by SA [REDACTED] b2c Date dictated 8/6/70

*b7c*  
Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she has never received any mail or correspondence from her husband by way of anyone connected with COLIFAM. She stated that she has received only one letter from her husband since he was shot down over North Vietnam. This letter was received December 24, 1969, through regular channels. The letter was actually dated October 23, 1969.

*b7c*  
Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that Mrs. [REDACTED] and Mrs. [REDACTED] are the only wives in addition to herself who live in the Newport News-Hampton, Virginia, area, known to her, whose husbands are prisoners of war in North Vietnam. *b7c*

She stated that Mrs. [REDACTED] Hampton, Virginia, is married to [REDACTED] U. S. Air Force, who is missing in action over North Vietnam. [REDACTED] is not known to be a prisoner of war. *b7c*

EO 12812-2  
*b7c* She stated that to the best of her knowledge, Mrs. [REDACTED] is the only one of the above individuals who has met with FERNANDEZ. Mrs. [REDACTED] was present at the meeting in March, 1970, at the home of Mrs. [REDACTED] at Virginia Beach, Virginia.

*b7c*  
Mrs. [REDACTED] furnished two letters concerning COLIFAM, one dated December 15, 1969, signed by LOUIS W. SCHNIEDER and one dated January 20, 1970, signed by ROGER G. FREDRICKSON, copies of which are attached.



AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE, INC.



160 North Fifteenth Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102  
Phone 215-563-9372

HENRY BEERITS  
Chairman

HENRY J. CADBURY  
Honorary Chairman

BRONSON P. CLARK  
Executive Secretary

December 15, 1969

Dear Friend,

This is but a brief note to acknowledge receipt of your letter addressed to your family member who is being held as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam.

My current plans call for me to arrive in North Vietnam on or about 26 December at which point I hope to be able to turn your letter along with a large number of other letters from the immediate families of men being held to the appropriate authorities of the Democratic Republic of North Vietnam, along with my request that the letters be delivered to the individual prisoners.

After my return to the United States I will write to you again to let you know whether it was possible to deliver the letters.

Most sincerely yours,

Louis W. Schneider  
Associate Executive Secretary

AMERICAN FRIENDS & SERVICE COMMITTEE INC.



160 North Fifteenth Street,  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 1910  
Phone 215-563-9372

HENRY BEERITS  
Chairman

HENRY J. CADBURY  
Honorary Chairman

BRONSON P. CLARK  
Executive Secretary

January 20, 1970

Dear Friend,

I am happy to report that during my visit to North Vietnam between December 26, 1969, and January 9, 1970, I was able to deliver to the representatives of the Vietmy (Viet Nam Committee for Solidarity with American People) about 500 letters that had been forwarded on to me by you and other family members of prisoners of war in North Vietnam.

Immediately prior to my departure from North Vietnam I was given 69 letters from 64 American prisoners of war, and in keeping with the North Vietnamese request these letters have been given to the

Committee of Liaison  
with Families of Service  
men detained in North  
Vietnam  
365 W. 42nd Street  
New York, New York

for transmittal to the individual addressees. We at the American Friends Service Committee are pleased to have had a part in opening a channel for communication between the prisoners and their families and hope that this will continue.

You may be interested to know that during my visit to North Vietnam I was able to deliver a second contribution of open heart surgical equipment to the Benh Vien Viet-Duc Hospital in Hanoi in keeping with a long-standing Quaker concern for civilian sufferers on both sides of a war.

Following my departure from North Vietnam I traveled on to Quang Ngai in South Vietnam to visit the American Friends Service Committee (Quaker) rehabilitation project for civilian casualties.

I have asked my colleagues in Philadelphia to mail this letter to you prior to my return to the United States, so that you might know more promptly that your letter has safely arrived in Hanoi and was given to the appropriate North Vietnamese authorities with my specific request that it be delivered to the individual addressee.

Most sincerely yours,

for: Louis W. Schneider  
Roger G. Fredrickson

RF/h

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/14/70

1

*b7c*  
Mrs. [REDACTED] Virginia, advised she is the wife of [REDACTED], United States Air Force, who has been missing in action since 1968, in North Vietnam.

*b7c*  
Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she has never received any correspondence from her husband from any source since he was reported missing in action. She stated she has never met Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM). She stated, however, she has tried to contact her husband through COLIFAM and she furnished some items of correspondence described as follows: (copies of these letters are attached).

Letter dated December 15, 1969, to "Dear Friend", signed by LOUIS W. SCHNEIDER, American Friends Service Committee, Incorporated.

Letter dated January 21, 1970, to "Dear Mrs. Hartney", signed by Mrs. William Taylor.

Letter dated January 20, 1970, to "Dear Friend", signed ROGER G. FREDRICKSON.

*b7c*  
Letter dated January 27, 1970, addressed to "Dear [REDACTED]" signed by BARBARA WEBSTER, which enclosed two pages information sheet dated January, 1970, concerning COLIFAM.

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*b7c*  
On 8/6/70 at [REDACTED] Virginia File # Norfolk 100-6833  
by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 8/10/70

NF 100-6833

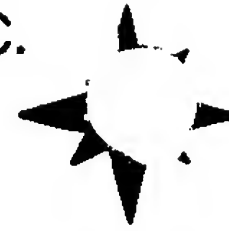
2

Letter dated July 27, 1970, to <sup>b2c</sup>  
"Dear Mrs. [REDACTED] signed  
by KENNETH KIRKPATRICK, which  
enclosed a list of 335 names  
reportedly officially confirmed  
by Hanoi to be prisoners held in  
North Vietnam, April, 1970.

EO 12812-2

Letter dated July 28, 1970, to <sup>b2c</sup>  
"Mrs. [REDACTED] signed  
by BARBARA WEBSTER

AMERICAN FRIEND SERVICE COMMITTEE INC.



160 North Fifteenth Street,  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102  
Phone 215-563-9372

HENRY BEERITS  
Chairman

HENRY J. CADBURY  
Honorary Chairman

BRONSON P. CLARK  
Executive Secretary

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Most sincerely yours,

Louis W. Schneider  
Associate Executive Secretary





— FIFTY SOUTH TWELFTH STREET —

PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19107  
Telephone: 561-2636

January 21, 1970

Dear *Mrs.*  <sup>b7c</sup> E012812-2

I am sorry that it has taken me so long to write to you but I've been waiting until I could make definite suggestions to you and now I am pleased to say I can.

I regret very much that I did not bring back a letter for you but now an organization has been set up between the Peace Movement and Hanoi specifically for the purpose of forwarding mail and forwarding inquiries regarding prisoners from the immediate family.

The organization is the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam and is located at 365 W. 42nd Street, New York City, N.Y., 10036.

I am a member of this Committee. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any reason.

Cordially,

*Ethel Taylor*

Mrs. William Taylor

1505 Ashford Way  
Phila., Pa., 19151  
MI 2-9078 (Area Code 215)

P.S. You will shortly receive information directly from the Committee of Liaison with details of its operation.

5 AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE INC.

160 North Fifteenth Street,  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102  
Phone 215-563-9372

HENRY BEERITS  
Chairman

HENRY J. CADBURY  
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BRONSON P. CLARK  
Executive Secretary

January 20, 1970

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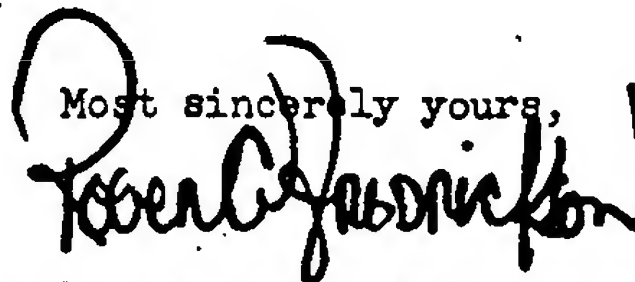
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Most sincerely yours,



for: Louis W. Schneider  
Roger G. Fredrickson

RF/h

**COMMITTEE OF LIAISON****with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam**

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

January 27, 1970 (212) 765-1490

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]

E012812-2

## Co-chairmen:

Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

## Treasurer:

Mrs. Anne Bennett

## Committee (in formation):

Rennie Davis  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
\*Maggie Geddes  
\*Steve Halliwell  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
\*Trudi Young

\*staff

Ethel Taylor, a member of our newly-formed committee, which will facilitate communication between American servicemen held in North Vietnam and their families, has asked us to contact you. We are enclosing an Information Sheet describing the Committee of Liaison.

We have also duplicated the enclosed letter form which you may wish to use in writing your relative. The North Vietnamese have said that prisoners can send and receive one letter per month and one package (not more than six pounds in weight) every other month. Note the address and mail route given in the Information Sheet.

If you would like us to try to find out if your relative is a prisoner in North Vietnam, send his full name, service number and any details you have on when and where he was shot down. We will then transmit the inquiry to the North Vietnamese and are hopeful of receiving a response to every request made.

It is important to understand that there undoubtedly were many pilots whose planes were shot down but whom the North Vietnamese could not rescue, and that there are prisoners held by the Provisional Revolutionary Government in South Vietnam and by the Pathet Lao in Laos about whom we are not able to get information.

We understand your anguish in not knowing about your relative and we sincerely hope we can be of help in getting information about him for you.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Webster*

Barbara Webster

P.S. We apologize for sending a mimeographed letter but we wanted to get this word to you as quickly as possible.

## 7. COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

*with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam*

365 West 42nd Street New York N.Y. 10036

212-765-1490

January, 1970

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

### Committee (in formation):

Rennie Davis  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
\*Maggie Geddes  
\*Steve Halliwell  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Ben Seitzman  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
\*Trudi Young  
\*staff

### INFORMATION SHEET

#### Background

In the course of the Vietnam war, links have been built between the people of Vietnam and Americans who oppose the war through numerous meetings and conferences. These meetings have taken place in Europe, Canada, Cuba and Southeast Asia and have included people from both the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam) and the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam (now part of the Provisional Revolutionary Government).

In these meetings the Vietnamese have always stressed a distinction between the U.S. government, whom they hold responsible for the policy of war, and the U.S. people, whom they believe still value the goals upon which this country was founded--independence, justice, freedom and equality. This same distinction is evident to those Americans who have visited North Vietnam and found that even though the nation is armed to defend itself, the people are encouraged by their government to believe that the American people are basically decent and humane.

It is therefore understandable that the Vietnamese should indicate their basic confidence in the American people through the peace movement which they believe embodies American ideals, rather than the government. In the past, the Vietnamese have asked the peace movement to receive U.S. servicemen--primarily pilots whose planes were shot down--when the North Vietnamese government has decided to release them. On three separate occasions--February 1968, July 1968 and July 1969--the peace movement has gone to Hanoi and returned with released servicemen; on one occasion an American peace activist went to Phnom Penh, Cambodia to receive three released NLF captives.

In addition, Americans visiting Hanoi have frequently carried letters there at the request of families, and have brought back letters from servicemen. There have also been occasions when American peace activists have met prisoners and talked with them.

#### Functions of the Committee

A Committee of Liaison has now been established as an extension of these past efforts at the request of the North Vietnamese. As on past occasions, the peace movement is responding to a request by the Vietnamese to meet a specific, immediate need and is not in any sense representing the government of North Vietnam.

The Committee will seek to facilitate communication between families in the U.S. and servicemen now imprisoned in North Vietnam. Basically, the Committee will receive letters from servicemen and forward them through the domestic mails, thereby decreasing, we hope, past problems in the receipt of such mail. We will also forward letters to North Vietnam at the request of relatives. Families are of course still free to send letters and parcels directly but should note that the instructions for mailing previously issued by the State Department are wrong. The correct address is:



via Moscow, U.S.S.R.

In addition, it is possible that the Vietnamese will be able to

## INFORMATION SHEET - page 2

requests for information about servicemen from families who are uncertain if their relatives are being held in North Vietnam. Requests should be submitted to the Committee, but there is no certainty when and if the North Vietnamese will be able to respond. The Committee will of course transmit immediately any information that it receives to the family.

Clarification

Two clarifications are in order: first, it should be noted that the Committee will be dealing only with the government of North Vietnam and will not have any information on men held in South Vietnam by Provisional Revolutionary Government. Nor will we be able to provide information at this time concerning men held in Laos or any other east Asian country where U.S. troops and aircraft are presently in combat missions.

Secondly, the Committee will function entirely apart from the U.S. government. The U.S. government has frequently made it more difficult for the Vietnamese to be open to the concerns of American families by using families' genuine desires as a propaganda ploy. The government has further attempted to provoke an angry response from the Vietnamese by publicizing unsubstantiated and inflammatory testimony from fliers recently released: apparently, the government has decided to jeopardize existing communications and the possibility of future releases for the sake of propaganda aimed at prolonging the war. The North Vietnamese are also very aware that the U.S. government's claims of humanitarian concerns are contradicted by the well-documented policy of torture and brutality practiced on prisoners taken in the South by U.S. and Saigon troops.

In addition to all these factors, there is the simple fact that the resolution of the fate of all the servicemen now held in North Vietnam waits ultimately upon a U.S. decision to end the war and withdraw its forces and material.

Who We Are

We firmly believe that the safe return of these men and the half million others that the U.S. maintains in South Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, and aboard naval vessels--who can also be viewed as prisoners, prisoners of their own government since many have been sent to fight in a war against the dictates of their own conscience--can only come with a decision on the part of the U.S. government to withdraw from Vietnam. Because of this conviction, we who are serving on this Committee continue our efforts to create popular pressure strong enough to force the government to withdraw.

We are active in a variety of organizations committed to ending the war: American Friends Service Committee, the New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam, Women Strike for Peace, The Conspiracy, and Women Against War. The Committee is supported by donations from individuals, organizations, and welcome any gifts to sustain its work.



## AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE



100 North Fifteenth Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Phone 215-563-5372

HENRY BEERITS  
Chairman

HENRY J. CADBURY  
Honorary Chairman

BRONSON P. CLARK  
Executive Secretary

July 27, 1970

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]

b2c  
EO 12812-2

I deeply regret that it was not possible for me to deliver the enclosed as you had requested when I went to Hanoi in June 1970. I was told in Hanoi by Mr. Tran Trong Quat of the Vietnam Committee for Solidarity with the American People that that Committee has compiled a list of 335 American servicemen who it says are held in detention camps in North Vietnam. (See attached list.) This Committee does not have responsibility for the administration of camps of detention in North Vietnam, but is the committee which invited me to visit Hanoi. Mr. Quat would accept from me only those letters which were addressed to persons on the list of 335. This is the same list which was turned over to the Committee of Liaison last April.

Mr. Quat informed me that the North Vietnam authorities have no information regarding Americans who have been captured in areas outside North Vietnam. In other words, although the name of a person who is believed to have been shot down over Laos, Cambodia, China or South Vietnam does not appear on the North Vietnam list of 335, this does not mean that that person has not survived. It only means that according to the North Vietnamese he is not a person known to them or held by them and that they, therefore, cannot deliver letters or packages to him.

Regarding those reportedly shot down over North Vietnam the refusal of Mr. Quat to accept letters for delivery because their names are not on the list of 335 implies, of course, a more somber situation, but I learned nothing more specific than that as to any particular individual.

My recent trip to Southeast Asia took me both to Hanoi and to Saigon. Both in North Vietnam and in South Vietnam, as well as here in the United States, one cannot help but see how this war has brought tragedy and sorrow into the lives of all affected by it, Americans and Vietnamese alike.

Again let me express my sincere regret that I was not able to deliver the enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

*Kenneth Kirkpatrick*

Kenneth Kirkpatrick  
Peace Education Secretary  
AFSC  
814 N.E. 40th Street  
Seattle, Washington 98105

KK:vh  
encl.

(List of names not being included herein.)

*NGƯỜI GỬI (Addressor)*

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

SỐ LÍNH (Service number):

NƠI VÀ NGÀY SINH (Date & place of birth):

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

TRẠI GIAM PHI CÔNG MỸ BỊ BẮT TẠI  
NƯỚC VIỆT - NAM DÂN CHỦ CỘNG HÒA  
VIA MOSCOW, USSR (Camp of detention for U.S. pilots captured  
in the DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC of VIETNAM)

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON  
with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

*GỬI (Addressee)*

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

NGÀY VIẾT (Dated) .....

1. Phải viết rõ và chỉ được viết trên những dòng kẻ sẵn (*Write legibly and only on the lines*).
2. Trong thư chỉ được nói về tình hình sức khỏe và tình hình gia đình (*Write only about health and family*).
3. Gia đình gửi đến cũng phải theo đúng mẫu, khuôn khổ và quy định này (*Letters from families should also conform to this proforma*).

**with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam**

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee  
Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Ben Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

July 28, 1970

[REDACTED]

b7c

EO 12812-2

b7c

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]

As you may already know, Ken Kirkpatrick of the American Friends Service Committee took more than 700 letters from families on his recent trip to Hanoi. The North Vietnamese accepted only those for the 335 men who are officially confirmed to be prisoners there, and asked him to convey this policy to us. We are, therefore, regretfully returning the enclosed letter to you.

It should be noted that the North Vietnamese reiterated that they are responsible only for men shot down and captured over North Vietnam, and that they have no way of delivering mail to men missing in other countries.

While there has been no statement from the North Vietnamese that the list of 335 is the total number of men they are holding, it is our feeling that it is very close to--may even be--the total. Should we ever receive specific information about your husband we will certainly contact you right away.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Webster*  
Barbara Webster

P.S. I am sorry for the delay in returning the letter to you but we wanted to wait until Ken Kirkpatrick returned to this country so we could talk with him.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 17, 1970

1

[REDACTED] b2c  
[REDACTED]  
Virginia, furnished the following information:

b7c  
Her husband is [REDACTED] in the U. S. Air Force and while piloting an F-105 aircraft was shot down in North Vietnam in October, 1967 and he has been declared a prisoner of war. (POW)

She has received only two letters from her husband since his capture by the North Vietnamese. Both letters were forwarded to her by cover letter from the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM). The first letter was received about six months ago and the last, four months ago.

She recalled that she first heard from COLIFAM around January, 1970 when they furnished her an information sheet indicating that they might be able to forward mail to and from POWs. She has retained none of the correspondence that she has received from COLIFAM. No representative thereof has contacted her personally and COLIFAM has not pressured her into joining their organization or contributing financially to it.

EO 12812-2 b2c  
She recalled that a Reverend FERNANDEZ telephoned her sister, Mrs. [REDACTED] who lives at the Air Force Base in Victorville, California, several months ago, stating that he knew Mrs. [REDACTED] and her husband and wanted Mrs. [REDACTED] address. Mrs. [REDACTED] did not furnish the address to him.

b7c Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she is a member of the National League of Families of American Prisoners in Southeast Asia, but does not participate in any of its activities. She stated that she has not traveled overseas or out of the area in an effort to ascertain further information concerning her husband. She has not testified before any Congressional Committee.

- 23 -

On 8/13/70 at [REDACTED] Virginia File # Norfolk 100-6833

by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 8/14/70 b7c



NF 100-6833

2

E012812-2 Mrs. [REDACTED] <sup>b2c</sup> stated that she and her husband have four children and that she wants to avoid publicity in this matter. She stated that only her immediate family and a few close personal friends in Portsmouth openly know the status of her husband as a POW.

She wants to avoid the "limelight" and would not be willing to testify to the above.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 17, 1970

1

Mrs. [REDACTED] b2c  
following information:

She is the wife of [REDACTED] U. S. Navy, who was shot down over North Vietnam on [REDACTED] 1967, and he has been declared missing in action (MIA). b2c

Mrs. [REDACTED] b2c furnished two copies of a photograph which was extracted by the Navy from a Japanese propaganda film released during Christmas of 1967 and she stated the photographs are those of a person who she feels is identical with her husband.

She further related that when Captain RUMBLE, U. S. Air Force, a former prisoner of war (POW) in Hanoi was released several months ago, he indicated that he had been in three POW camps and that when he had entered the second camp, her husband's name had been listed as a POW. She also related that the Navy has advised her that they had otherwise learned that her husband had been seen at a POW camp.

E012812-2 In 1967, Mrs. [REDACTED] b2c and Mrs. [REDACTED] had gone to New York and conferred with DAVID DELLINGER and several others who are affiliated with some peace organization and she sent a letter to her husband along with the women who in turn gave the letter to DELLINGER. She stated, however, that she has never received any mail from her husband.

Over the years, she has heard through various sources that certain people, such as STEWART MEACHAM, were going to Hanoi and she has sent mail with these persons. On one occasion, she actually telephonically talked with MEACHAM and asked him if he could inquire concerning her husband. He has furnished no information concerning him, however.

- 25 -

On 8/13/70 at Virginia Beach, Virginia File # Norfolk 100-6833

by SA [REDACTED] b2c Date dictated 8/14/70

In early 1970, she began to receive correspondence from the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM). She stated that this group apparently had been formed to ascertain information about POWs and MIAs and to arrange to get mail back and forth between the POWs and their wives. She has received considerable correspondence from COLIFAM since the early part of the year.

She furnished the most recent letter from COLIFAM dated August 3, 1970, which is set forth subsequently. In addition, she furnished a letter dated July 27, 1970, from the American Friends Service Committee, a xero copy of which follows.

In February, 1970, she directed a letter to COLIFAM telling them about her husband's circumstances and pointing out that she had reason to believe that he was a POW. She received a reply from COLIFAM indicating that they would cable his name to Hanoi and that they would subsequently advise her. She has received no information indicating that her husband actually is a POW.

During the last several months, she has been regularly sending letters on a prescribed Navy form to her husband through COLIFAM.

She expressed an opinion that COLIFAM had thought that it would obtain more information concerning the POWs from Hanoi than it actually has. She has no information concerning the actual formation of COLIFAM.

She related that she has never tried to obtain information concerning her husband from the Women Strike for Peace. She has never been contacted by the Women Strike for Peace nor any other person knowingly affiliated with COLIFAM other than STEWART MEACHAM.

In May, 1970, she went to Washington, D. C. to talk with the Swedish Ambassador in an effort to obtain information on her husband. The Ambassador related that he would contact his, the Swedish Government, but she has received no information from the Ambassador since that time.

NF 100-6833

3

She related that she has engaged in no foreign travel in an effort to obtain information concerning her husband.

She stated that she is a member of the National League of Families of American Prisoners in Southeast Asia.

EO12812-2620

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she would be willing to testify as to the above, but feels that her information concerning COLIFAM is quite limited.

# COMMITTEE FOR LIAISON

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212)

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee  
Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

August 3, 1970

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]

62c  
EO 12812-2

As you may already know, Ken Kirkpatrick of the American Friends Service Committee took more than 700 letters from families on his recent trip to Hanoi, but the North Vietnamese accepted only those for the 335 men who are officially confirmed to be prisoners there. We are, therefore, regretfully returning the enclosed.

While there has been no statement from the North Vietnamese that the list of 335 is the total number of men they are holding, it is our feeling that it is very close to -- may even be -- the total. We have made a special request about the few men for whom there is some evidence they survived their air raid. Should we receive any information about your husband we will certainly contact you immediately.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Webster*  
Barbara Webster

P.S. I am sorry for the delay in writing we wanted to wait until Ken had returned and we could talk with him.



## AMERICAN LANDS SERVICE COMMITTEE .C.



160 North Fifth St.  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
Phone 215-536-91

HENRY BEERITS  
Chairman

HENRY J. CADBURY  
Honorary Chairman

BRONSON P. CLARK  
Executive Secretary

July 27, 1970

Dear [REDACTED]

67c  
EO 12812-2

I deeply regret that it was not possible for me to deliver the enclosed you had requested when I went to Hanoi in June 1970. I was told in Hanoi by Mr. Tran Trong Quat of the Vietnam Committee for Solidarity with the American People that that Committee has compiled a list of 335 American servicemen who it says are held in detention camps in North Vietnam. (See attached list.) This Committee does not have responsibility for the administration of camps of detention in North Vietnam, but is the committee which invited me to visit Hanoi. Mr. Quat would accept from me only those letters which were addressed to persons on the list of 335. This is the same list which was turned over to the Committee of Liaison last April.

Mr. Quat informed me that the North Vietnam authorities have no information regarding Americans who have been captured in areas outside North Vietnam. In other words, although the name of a person who is believed to have been shot down over Laos, Cambodia, China or South Vietnam does not appear on the North Vietnam list of 335, this does not mean that that person has not survived. It only means that according to the North Vietnamese he is not a person known to them or held by them and that they, therefore, cannot deliver letters or packages to him.

Regarding those reportedly shot down over North Vietnam the refusal of Mr. Quat to accept letters for delivery because their names are not on the list of 335 implies, of course, a more somber situation, but I learned nothing more specific than that as to any particular individual.

My recent trip to Southeast Asia took me both to Hanoi and to Saigon. Both in North Vietnam and in South Vietnam, as well as here in the United States, one cannot help but see how this war has brought tragedy and sorrow into the lives of all affected by it, Americans and Vietnamese alike.

Again let me express my sincere regret that I was not able to deliver the enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth Kirkpatrick  
Peace Education Secretary  
AFSC  
814 N.E. 40th Street  
Seattle, Washington 98105

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 17, 1970

1

Mrs. [REDACTED] b7c  
[REDACTED] Virginia Beach, Virginia, furnished the following information:

Mrs. [REDACTED] b7c related that she is the wife of [REDACTED] b7c  
[REDACTED] U. S. Navy, who was shot down over North Vietnam and declared a prisoner of war (POW) in July, 1965.

She stated that approximately 3½ years ago she and some of the other wives of POWs learned that a group representing some peace organization was going to North Vietnam. After contacting Naval Intelligence, Washington, D. C., the Navy suggested to her and Mrs. [REDACTED] b2 another wife of a POW, that they personally contact the group, which was located in New York City, and take with them letters to their husbands. The personal visit was apparently necessary because the group was leaving within two days and there was not enough time to mail the letters to the group.

E012812-2

She related that she and Mrs. [REDACTED] b2c went to an office of some unidentified peace newspaper in New York, in an effort to talk to TOM HAYDEN, Father BERRIGAN, and DAVID DELLINGER. They were referred to an apartment. They went to the apartment where they conferred with HAYDEN, BERRIGAN, and DELLINGER and an unidentified professor. The apartment was located near Greenwich Village, but she could not recall the address. She and Mrs. [REDACTED] b2c asked the men if it were possible that they could see their husbands. They took with them pictures of their husbands and letters from a number of POW wives. The group was cordial and suggested to the women that they become vocal in expressing anti-war sentiments. They said they would do whatever possible in Hanoi.

After this, Father BERRIGAN and the professor actually went to Hanoi. After the men returned to the United States, the two

- 30 -

On 8/13/70 at Virginia Beach, Virginia File # Norfolk 100-6833

by SA [REDACTED] b7c Date dictated 8/14/70

men contacted [redacted] and told her that they had given the mail to the North Vietnamese to give to the POWs. BERRIGAN and the professor brought out three POWs and the POWs were returned to the United States. Neither BERRIGAN nor the professor actually contacted Mrs. [redacted]

Mrs. [redacted] stated that prior to Christmas of 1969, she had received eight letters from her husband through the Postal Service from Hanoi. Since that time, she has received five additional letters from her husband, which were transmitted by the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM). The last was received in mid-June, 1970.

COLIFAM sends each letter with a cover letter saying they are happy to transmit the letter from her husband. In one letter, COLIFAM asked for donations to the group.

EO 12812-2 She exhibited a letter dated May 4, 1970 from Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ addressed to "The Families of the 335 Presently Confirmed Prisoners Held in North Vietnam." The subject matter was "Information on Correspondence with Prisoners." The letter bore the masthead of COLIFAM and was two pages long.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that generally she writes to her husband on a monthly basis through the Postal Service, using prescribed form given to the POW wives by the Navy.

Mrs. [redacted] has had no personal contact with COLIFAM and has had no personal dealings with the Women Strike for Peace, although on several occasions in 1969, or thereabouts, she had sent letters to her husband through DAGMAR WILSON of the Women Strike for Peace, as Mrs. [redacted] a wife of a POW, had told her that representatives of that organization were going to Hanoi.

In early 1970, Mrs. [redacted] had received an invitation from CORA WEISS of the Women Strike for Peace to attend a reception at some Congressional Building in Washington, which Mrs. [redacted] did not attend.

Mrs. [redacted] has not traveled outside of the country in an effort to ascertain information concerning her husband and has not testified before any Congressional Committee.

NF 100-6833

3

She stated that she has no information as to the origin of COLIFAM and at this time was unable to locate any correspondence from them. She stated it is her personal opinion that Hanoi had asked COLIFAM to be a clearing house for mail between the POWs and their wives and by doing this, this has given COLIFAM favorable publicity as a peace organization. She recalled reading in a local newspaper that the Attorney, WILLIAM KUNSTLER had been called to Paris by the North Vietnamese and that thereafter a committee was set up to deal with the POW situation.

E012812-2

Mrs. [REDACTED] <sup>b7c</sup> stated that she has no desire to testify in regards to the above and stated that any prosecution of COLIFAM, if it were forthcoming, would hinder the sending and receipt of mail between POWs and their wives.

She produced a letter which she had received from the American Friends Service Committee, dated January 20, 1970, and a xero copy follows.

## AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE, INC.



160 North Fifteenth  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
Phone 215-523-5

HENRY BEERITS  
Chairman

HENRY J. CADBURY  
Honorary Chairman

BRONSON P. CLARK  
Executive Secretary

January 20, 1970

Dear Friend,

I am happy to report that during my visit to North Vietnam between December 26, 1969, and January 9, 1970, I was able to deliver to the representatives of the Vietmy (Viet Nam Committee for Solidarity with American People) about 500 letters that had been forwarded on to me by you and other family members of prisoners of war in North Vietnam.

Immediately prior to my departure from North Vietnam I was given 69 letters from 64 American prisoners of war, and in keeping with the North Vietnamese request these letters have been given to the

Committee of Liaison  
with Families of Service  
men detained in North  
Vietnam  
365 W. 42nd Street  
New York, New York

for transmittal to the individual addressees. We at the American Friends Service Committee are pleased to have had a part in opening a channel for communication between the prisoners and their families and hope that this will continue.

You may be interested to know that during my visit to North Vietnam I was able to deliver a second contribution of open heart surgical equipment to the Benh Vien Viet-Duc Hospital in Hanoi in keeping with a long standing Quaker concern for civilian sufferers on both sides of a war.

Following my departure from North Vietnam I traveled on to Quang Ngai in South Vietnam to visit the American Friends Service Committee (Quaker) rehabilitation project for civilian casualties.

I have asked my colleagues in Philadelphia to mail this letter to you prior to my return to the United States, so that you might know more fully that your letter has safely arrived in Hanoi and was given to the appropriate North Vietnamese authorities with my specific request that it be delivered to the individual addressee.

Most sincerely yours,

for: Louis W. Schneider  
Roger G. Fredrickson

RF/h



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/27/70

1

Mrs. [REDACTED] b2c  
Virginia Beach, Virginia, furnished the following information:

[REDACTED] E012812-2  
She is the wife of [REDACTED] b7c  
U. S. Navy, who was shot down in combat over North Vietnam in September, 1968, and was declared a prisoner of war (POW) in October, 1968.

In about January, 1970, she received her first correspondence from the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM). This was in the form of an "information sheet", which she did not read in detail. In February, 1970, she received a special delivery letter from CORA WEISS of COLIFAM telling her that her husband's name had been released by Hanoi to COLIFAM as a POW and that she would be receiving mail.

In March, 1970, she received her first letter from her husband. This letter was transmitted to her from COLIFAM with a form letter, a copy of which is attached.

She received her second letter from her husband through COLIFAM with a cover sheet from COLIFAM headed "Communication with Captured Airmen Established by New Committee: Letters en route now." A copy of this is attached.

She assumes that Reverend FERNANDEZ of COLIFAM was responsible for bringing out the second letter. She stated this is based on information she received from other POW wives who advised her that FERNANDEZ had gone to Hanoi where he spoke with several POWs and had returned with mail.

On virtually a monthly basis, she mailed letters to her husband through the U. S. Postal Service to Hanoi using a prescribed form of the North Vietnam Government, which the Navy had furnished to her. She does not send mail to her husband through COLIFAM.

- 34 -

On 8/21/70 at Virginia Beach, Virginia File # Norfolk 100-6833

by SA [REDACTED] b2c Date dictated 8/21/70

E012812-2

NF 100-6833

2

She related that she has had no conversations with anyone on COLIFAM and she has not been pressured to affiliate with the organization. She stated that she has not travelled overseas in an effort to ascertain information concerning her husband as she felt such travel would serve no useful purpose.

She stated that she along with many other wives of POWs and men missing in action belongs to the National League of Families of American Persons Missing in Southeast Asia.

She stated that she would be willing to testify before any hearing concerning the above, although she pointed out she actually has very limited information.

<sup>3</sup>**COMMITTEE LIAISON**

**with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam**

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee  
Richard J. Barnett  
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\*Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED] : <sup>124</sup> E012812-2

We're very happy to forward this letter to you which just arrived from North Vietnam along with 86 others.

We know it's been a long time since you were informed that this letter was en route, but it's a long trip and we too are delighted that they've arrived.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Webster Maggie*

Barbara Webster Maggie  
for the Committee of Lia

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)

DATE: 9/8/70

FROM: SAC, CHARLOTTE (100-10986)

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF  
SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)  
IS - MISC  
REGISTRATION ACT

Re New York letter to Director dated 6/9/70.

On 9/2/70, Mrs. [REDACTED] Goldsboro, N. C., advised SA [REDACTED] that Mrs. [REDACTED] wife of [REDACTED] who is a prisoner in Vietnam, is residing in [REDACTED] Virginia, and can be located through a sister-in-law Mrs. [REDACTED] Virginia. She advised that [REDACTED] has purchased a trailer and is living in same in [REDACTED]

LEAD:

ALEXANDRIA:

[REDACTED] VIRGINIA.

Will locate and interview Mrs. [REDACTED] as set forth in referenced communication.

E012812-2

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

EX 106

- (2) - Bureau RM
- 2 - Alexandria pm
- 1 - Charlotte

(5)

60 SEP 17 1970



Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

FBI

Date: 8/31/70

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

REGISTERED MAIL

Via \_\_\_\_\_

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)

FROM: SAC RICHMOND (100-11215) RUC

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH  
FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED  
IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)  
IS - MISCELLANEOUS; REGISTRATION ACT  
(OO: NEW YORK)

Re Richmond airtel to the Director, 7/27/70.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 2 copies of an FD-302 reflecting interview of 8/19/70 with Mrs. [REDACTED] wife of U. S. Naval [REDACTED] who has been a prisoner of war in North Vietnam since 6/66.

Also enclosed for the Bureau is one copy each of Xerox copies of the following:

(A) Information Sheet dated 1/1970, setting forth background and functions of captioned committee.

(B) Letter dated 5/4/70 on letterhead of captioned committee from Rev. RICHARD FERNANDEZ concerning information on how to correspond with prisoners.

(C) Copy of blank "air-letter" form enclosed with 5/4/70 letter from Rev. FERNANDEZ.

- 2 - Bureau (Encl. 8) (REGISTERED MAIL)
- 2 - New York (Encl. 14) (100-168469) (REGISTERED MAIL)
- 1 - Philadelphia (Enclosures - 7) (REGISTERED MAIL)
- 1 - Richmond

EX 106

ENCLOSURE

"ENCLOSURE ATTACHED"

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

M

Per \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge



- (D) Letter dated 6/14/70 on letterhead from captioned committee addressed "Dear friend" and signed "Barbara Webster" which letter enclosed letter to Mrs. [REDACTED] from her husband. *b7c*
- (E) Letter described same as "D" above dated 6/26/70 which had enclosed letter from Mrs. [REDACTED] husband. *b7c*
- (F) Letter dated 1/20/70, on letterhead of American Friends Service Committee, Inc., 160 North 15th Street, Philadelphia, Pa., 19102, in which letter captioned committee is mentioned. *b7c*

Enclosed for New York are 8 copies of FD-302 setting forth interview of Mrs. [REDACTED]. One copy of this FD-302 is enclosed for Philadelphia in view of the fact that American Friends Service Committee Inc., is located in Philadelphia, Pa.

E012812-2

Enclosed for both New York and Philadelphia is one copy each of Xerox copies of documents and letters identified above under enclosures to the Bureau as A - F. *b7c*

It is noted that prior to interview of Mrs. [REDACTED] that she was advised that the purpose of the interview was to determine if the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam had been in contact with her, and that the investigation was to be made in an effort to determine if this Committee was engaging in political activity in the United States at the request of North Vietnam without complying with the requirements of the Foreign Registration Act. She was further advised that this investigation was being conducted by the FBI specifically at the request of Mr. J. WALTER YEAGLEY, Assistant Attorney General of the United States.

*b7c*  
Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that she is the wife of U. S. Navy [REDACTED] who has been a prisoner of war in North Vietnam since [REDACTED]/66.

*b2c*  
Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that while she feels that captioned Committee is a communist front organization, she is willing to utilize any and all means of communicating with her husband.

She said that since her husband's capture in June 1966 she has received a total of seven letters from him. She said that all information received by her and copies of all correspondence received by her have been made available to the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) and to the Bureau of Naval Personnel in Washington, D.C.

She said that in view of the fact that her husband is a captive in North Vietnam and has been for four years, that she would not be willing to testify publicly in a trial against captioned Committee. She said she based this stand on fear that the North Vietnam Government might take reprisal against her husband in the event she testified.

*EO 12812-2*  
She stated that she has been and will continue to keep ONI advised of any information coming to her attention pertinent to her husband and the captioned Committee.

*b7c*  
In view of Mrs. [REDACTED] statement concerning her wishes not to testify publicly, no LHM suitable for dissemination is being prepared by Richmond.

*b7c*  
Mrs. [REDACTED] made Xerox copies of enclosed correspondence pertaining to captioned Committee available to SA [REDACTED] on 8/19/70, stating that they constituted all correspondence she has received from that organization or pertaining to that organization. *b7c*

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/24/70

7-29-93 8:08 AM  
b2c

Mrs. [REDACTED]

was

interviewed at her place of employment, the [REDACTED] b2c  
[REDACTED] Richmond, Virginia, where she is employed in the [REDACTED]

She advised that she is the daughter of Retired <sup>b2c</sup>  
U. S. Army [REDACTED]  
Virginia. She furnished the following information:

Her husband, a U. S. Navy Pilot is <sup>b2c</sup> [REDACTED] U. S. Navy Serial [REDACTED] b2c  
He was reported to have been shot down over North Vietnam  
[REDACTED] 1966. She received no confirmation of whether her  
husband was dead or alive until she received a letter from  
her husband, which came directly to her from Hanoi, North  
Vietnam in January 1967. Since her husband has been a  
prisoner of war, she has received a total of seven letters  
from him; the first being the January 1967 letter and the  
second being in April 1969. She received one letter in  
June 1969 and two in December 1969. She has received two  
letters from her husband in June 1970.

The two letters received in December 1969 were  
forwarded to her through the Committee of Liaison with  
Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, and  
one of the June 1970 letters was forwarded to her through  
this same Committee.

Her first contact with this Committee was when  
she received a letter from her husband in 1969; however,  
the Committee furnished no explanation as to its purpose,  
membership, etc. Subsequently in January 1970, she re-  
ceived a typewritten two-page letter on the letterhead  
of this Committee dated January 1970, captioned "Information  
Sheet", which set forth names of the officers of this  
organization, background and its functions. She has never  
received any personal contact with anyone representing  
themselves as spokesmen for this Committee but only in-  
formal-type correspondence.

8/19/70 <sup>EO 12812-2</sup> at Richmond, Virginia

Richmond 100-11215  
New York 100-168469

File #

SA [REDACTED] b2c

- 8/21/70

by

Date dictated

ENCLOSURE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE  
81 AUG 13 0 1972

RH 100-11215  
NY 100-168469  
2

62c  
EO 12812-2 Mrs. [REDACTED] made available Xerox copies of all correspondence received from this organization.

Since her husband's capture, she has received none of his personal possessions and no other contact has been made with him with the exception of the seven letters received by her to date.

It is her opinion that a person having someone confined as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam would have been contacted by the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam when the prisoner of war addresses a letter to that member of his family. The Committee obtains the address and identity of that individual from the prisoner of war's correspondence and thereafter contacts the member in that city.

She stated that she is aware that certain other individuals with husbands or family members confined as prisoners of war in North Vietnam have been contacted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation concerning this Committee; however, she stated that she was not aware of the identities of any of these individuals who have not already been contacted.

62c — EO 12812-2 —  
Mrs. [REDACTED] advised she is a graduate of [REDACTED] Virginia, and has on numerous occasions appeared publicly and on television in an effort to try to secure in some way the return of her husband and other Americans confined in North Vietnam. She stated that her one aim in life is to have her husband returned safely to this country, and she would be willing to do most anything to bring this about; however, she stated on the other hand, she would not be willing to do anything she felt would bring him harm or lessen his chances of return.

EO 12812-2

NGÀY VIẾT (Dated).....

**GHI CHÚ (N.B.):**

1. Phải viết rõ và chỉ được viết trên những dòng kẻ sẵn (*Write legibly and only on the lines*).
2. Trong thư chỉ được nói về tình hình sức khỏe và tình hình gia đình (*Write only about health and family*).
3. Gia đình gửi đến cũng phải theo đúng mẫu, khuôn khổ và quy định này (*Letters from families should also conform to this proforma*).



2943 [redacted] 624

NGƯỜI GỬI (Addresser)

EO 12812-2

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

SỐ LĨNH (Service number):

NƠI VÀ NGÀY SINH (Date & place of birth):

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

TRẠI GIÀM PHI CÔNG MỸ BỊ BẮT TẠI  
NƯỚC VIỆT - NAM DÂN CHỦ CỘNG HÒA  
VIA MOSCOW, USSR (Camp of detention for U.S. pilots captured  
in the DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC of VIETNAM)

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON  
with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

GỬI (Addressee)

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

# COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

## with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee  
Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Gaddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

Dear friend:

We are very happy to send you the enclosed letter. It, along with 105 others, was brought back to this country by a group of anti-war people who have just returned from a visit to North Vietnam.

This brings to a total of 1,110 letters which the Committee of Liaison has forwarded on to families since last December.

Sincerely,  
*Barbara Webster*  
Barbara Webster

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE INC.

160 North Fifteenth Street,  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102  
Phone 215-563-9372

HENRY BEL  
Chairman

HENRY J. CAY  
Honorary Co.

BRONSON P. ...  
Executive Secretary



RECEIVED  
JAN 29 1970  
67  
E012812-2

January 20, 1970

Dear Friend,

I am happy to report that during my visit to North Vietnam between December 26, 1969, and January 9, 1970, I was able to deliver to the representatives of the Vietmy (Viet Nam Committee for Solidarity with American People) about 500 letters that had been forwarded on to me by you and other family members of prisoners of war in North Vietnam.

Immediately prior to my departure from North Vietnam I was given 69 letters from 64 American prisoners of war, and in keeping with the North Vietnamese request these letters have been given to the

Committee of Liaison  
with Families of Service  
men detained in North  
Vietnam  
365 W. 42nd Street  
New York, New York

for transmittal to the individual addressees. We at the American Friends Service Committee are pleased to have had a part in opening a channel for communication between the prisoners and their families and hope that this will continue.

You may be interested to know that during my visit to North Vietnam I was able to deliver a second contribution of open heart surgical equipment to the Benh Vien Viet-Duc Hospital in Hanoi in keeping with a long-standing Quaker concern for civilian sufferers on both sides of a war.

Following my departure from North Vietnam I traveled on to Quang Ngai in South Vietnam to visit the American Friends Service Committee (Quaker) rehabilitation project for civilian casualties.

I have asked my colleagues in Philadelphia to mail this letter to you prior to my return to the United States, so that you might know more promptly that your letter has safely arrived in Hanoi and was given to the appropriate North Vietnamese authorities with my specific request that it be delivered to the individual addressee.

Most sincerely yours,

for: Louis W. Schneider  
Roger G. Fredrickson

RF/h

**COMMITTEE OF LIAISON**

*with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam*

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1450

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

**Committee**

Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Gaddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Macdonald  
Prof. Ben Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

Dear friend:

We are very glad to send you the enclosed letter from North Vietnam. It, along with 142 others, was brought to this country by Jean Palomden, Nancy Rubin and Judy Claver -- anti-war activists who spent two weeks in North Vietnam.

The letters were slightly delayed in getting here because all the material they brought back with them, including the letters, was confiscated by the Canadian Customs upon their arrival in Montreal. This was totally unexpected and unprecedented; but they generated enough pressure so that everything was returned to them.

There will be another group going to North Vietnam at the end of this month. If you would like them to take a letter from you, please send it to us in the next week or so.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Webster*

Barbara Webster

# COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

## with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee  
Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Gaddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Maccham  
Prof. Bee Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

670  
E012812-2  
May 4, 1970  
1-29-93  
From: Rev. Richard Fernandez  
To: The families of the 335 presently confirmed prisoners held in North Vietnam  
Re: Information on correspondence with prisoners

On April 20th I returned from a three-week trip to Laos and North Vietnam. In North Vietnam I spoke with officials responsible for communication between pilots held in detention there and their families here. The following information was emphasized to me by the North Vietnamese authorities and we are anxious to make sure that you are aware of it:

- 1) The Vietnamese recommend that families use the air-letter form (enclosed) for correspondence.
- 2) Communication to pilots should be limited to matters of family and health.
- 3) Pilots are allowed to receive one letter per month and one package every other month (not over six pounds in weight).

Detention Camp authorities have said that they do not wish to receive several letters and/or packages per month for a given pilot from different members of the same family. Families should make arrangements for alternating letters each month if different members

want to write.

The North Vietnamese authorities indicated that, from this point forward, they will not feel responsible for forwarding letters and packages that do not adhere to the above.

If the letter form is mailed directly it can go in another envelope but the mail route, "via Moscow, U.S.S.R.," should definitely be included in the address. If letters are sent to the Committee of Liaison for forwarding please enclose but do not affix stamps as we send letters on in packets. The Committee cannot forward packages for families.

While I was in Hanoi, Prof. Douglas Dowd of Cornell University and I met with three pilots: Cdr. Robert Schweitzer of Lemoore, California; Cdr. Walter Wilbur of Virginia Beach and Lt. Col. Edison Miller of Santa Ana, California. The three men were in good health, and said they had daily exercise and reading material. The three pilots advised us that they had been getting letters and packages from their



Ricard Fernandez memo - page 2

families, and asked that packages include toilet articles and canned foods. In particular they mentioned soap, shaving cream (no razors or blades), toothpaste, powdered milk and cream, instant coffee and non-melting candy. They said they do not need clothes.

Also, in my discussions with the Vietnam Committee of Solidarity with the American People, the Committee of Liaison's contact in North Vietnam, we confirmed that since December over 800 letters have been sent from Hanoi through the Committee of Liaison. Of those, 156 letters are still on their way from Hanoi to families here.

We hope that this information clarifies some aspects of correspondence for you. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

1 67C  
EO 12812-2  
JAN 21 93  
COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

355 West 42nd Street New York N.Y. 10036

212-765-1490

January, 1970

INFORMATION SHEET

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee (in formation):  
Rennie Davis  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Ethel Taylor  
Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young  
staff

Background

In the course of the Vietnam war, links have been built between the people of Vietnam and Americans who oppose the war through numerous meetings and conferences. These meetings have taken place in Europe, Canada, Cuba and Southeast Asia and have included people from both the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam) and the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam (now part of the Provisional Revolutionary Government).

In these meetings the Vietnamese have always stressed a distinction between the U.S. government, whom they hold responsible for the policy of war, and the U.S. people, whom they believe still value the goals upon which this country was founded--independence, justice, freedom and equality. This same distinction is evident to those Americans who have visited North Vietnam and found that even though the nation is armed to defend itself, the people are encouraged by their government to believe that the American people are basically decent and humane.

It is therefore understandable that the Vietnamese should indicate their basic confidence in the American people through the peace movement which

they believe embodies their own ideals. In the past, the Vietnamese have asked the peace movement to receive U.S. servicemen--primarily pilots whose planes were shot down--when the North Vietnamese government has decided to release them. On three separate occasions--February 1968, July 1968 and July 1969--the peace movement has gone to Hanoi and returned with released servicemen; on one occasion an American peace activist went to Phnom Penh, Cambodia to receive three released NLF captives.

In addition, Americans visiting Hanoi have frequently carried letters there at the request of families, and have brought back letters from servicemen. There have also been occasions when American peace activists have met prisoners and talked with them.

Functions of the Committee

A Committee of Liaison has now been established as an extension of these past efforts at the request of the North Vietnamese. As on past occasions, the peace movement is responding to a request by the Vietnamese to meet a specific, immediate need and is not in any sense representing the government of North Vietnam.

The Committee will seek to facilitate communication between families in the U.S. and servicemen now imprisoned in North Vietnam. Basically, the Committee will receive letters from servicemen and forward them through the domestic mails, thereby decreasing, we hope, past problems in the receipt of such mail. We will also forward letters to North Vietnam at the request of relatives. Families are of course still free to send letters and parcels directly but should note that the instructions on mailing previously issued by the State Department are wrong. The correct address is:

name of serviceman  
serial number  
Camp of Detention of U.S. Pilots  
Captured in the D.R.V.  
Hanoi, Democratic Republic of Vietnam

INFORMATION SHEET - page 2

requests for information about servicemen from families who are uncertain if their relatives are being held in North Vietnam. Requests should be submitted to the Committee, but there is no certainty when and if the North Vietnamese will be able to respond. The Committee will of course transmit immediately any information that it receives to the family.

Clarification

Two clarifications are in order: first, it should be noted that the Committee will be dealing solely with the government of North Vietnam and will not have any information on men held in South Vietnam by the Provisional Revolutionary Government. Nor will we be able to provide information at this time concerning men held in Laos or any other Southeast Asian country where U.S. troops and aircraft are presently involved in combat missions.

Secondly, the Committee will function entirely apart from the U.S. government. The U.S. government has frequently made it more difficult for the Vietnamese to be open to the concerns of American families by using the families' genuine desires as a propaganda ploy. The government has further attempted to provoke an angry response from the Vietnamese by publicizing unsubstantiated and inflammatory testimony from fliers already released: apparently, the government has decided to jeopardize existing communications and the possibility of future releases for the sake of propaganda aimed at prolonging the war. The North Vietnamese are also very aware that the U.S. government's claims of humanitarian concerns are contradicted by the well-documented policy of torture and brutality practiced on prisoners taken in the South by U.S. and Saigon troops.

In addition to all the factors mentioned above, the resolution of the fate of all the servicemen now held in North Vietnam waits ultimately upon a U.S. decision to end the war and withdraw all its forces and materiel.

Who We Are

We firmly believe that the safe return of these men and the half million others that the U.S. maintains in South Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and aboard naval vessels--who can also be viewed as prisoners, prisoners of their own government since many have been sent to fight in a war against the dictates of their own conscience--can only come with a decision on the part of the U.S. government to withdraw from Vietnam. Because of this conviction, we who are serving on this Committee will continue our efforts to create popular pressure strong enough to force the government to withdraw.

We are active in a variety of organizations committed to ending the war: American Friends Service Committee, the New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, Clergy and Laymen Concerned about Vietnam, Women Strike for Peace, The Conspiracy, and Women Against Daddy Warbucks. The Committee is supported by donations from individuals and organizations, and welcomes any gifts to sustain its work.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>NEW YORK</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>NEW YORK</b>	DATE <b>9/9/70</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>6/9-8/25/70</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)</b> <b>7-29-93 9803</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED] b7c</b>	TYP <b>[REDACTED]</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>IS-MISC REGISTRATION ACT-NORTH VIETNAM</b> <b>b7c</b>	

REFERENCES:

New York airtel and LHM to Bureau, **6/9/70**.  
 San Antonio letter to Director, **8/27/70**.  
 San Diego report of SA **[REDACTED]** dated **6/9/70**.  
 Los Angeles letter to New York dated **8/20/70**.

- P -

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Investigation is continuing in the NY Division to interview relatives of prisoners of war contacted by COLIFAM.

NY is not setting forth additional leads on material furnished by SA in referenced communication. This material will be maintained for future possible use.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						<input type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:  PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES
CONVIC	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			
APPROVED						DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW		
COPIES MADE:						<b>100 457899-112 REC-3</b> <b>1 SEP 11 1970</b> <b>[REDACTED] b7c</b>		
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE <b>[REDACTED] b7c</b> 6-Bureau (100-457899) (RM) 1-Washington Field (INFO) (RM) 2-New York (100-168469) Deleted Copy Sent by Letter Dated <b>5/18/76</b> Per FOIPA Request <b>[REDACTED] b7c</b> <b>CC. 910-A</b>						Notations <b>[REDACTED]</b> <b>INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE</b>		
Dissemination Record of Attached Report								
Agency	Army, OSI, NIS, ISS, RA, C-ISO							
Request Recd.								
Date Fwd.	9/22/70							
How Fwd.	RIS <b>b7c</b>							
By	<b>[REDACTED]</b>							

55 SEP 24 1970

COVER PAGE

NY 100-168469

ADMINISTRATIVE (CONT'D)

EO 12812-2  
was by SA [REDACTED] b7c  
Pretext telephone call made to COLIFAM on 8/25/70 b7c

[REDACTED] Source used to describe CORA WEISS is former [REDACTED] b7c

No leads are being set forth by the NY Division at this time. It is felt that when all interviews are conducted, appropriate leads can be correlated at that time.

No local dissemination is being made at this time.

- B\* -  
(COVER PAGE)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of:

Date:

EO12812-2 9/9/70

Office: New York, New York

Field Office File #:

100-168469

Bureau File #: 100-457899

Title:

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN  
DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)

Character:

INTERNAL SECURITY-MISCELLANEOUS  
REGISTRATION ACT-NORTH VIETNAM

Synopsis:

COLIFAM has moved its office from 365 West 42nd St., NY, NY, to 5022 Waldo Ave., Bronx, NY, the home of CORA WEISS. The following relatives of prisoners of war were interviewed:

EO12812-2 [REDACTED]

b2c

- P -

DETAILS:

By suitable pretext telephone call dated August 25, 1970, it was determined that the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) is no longer operating out of 365 West 42nd Street, New York, New York (NY). It was determined that the new address is 5022 Waldo Avenue, Bronx, NY. This address is the home of CORA WEISS, Co-Chairman of COLIFAM.

In March, 1956, a source advised that WEISS, then CORA RUBIN while attending the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, was present at a public meeting sponsored by the University of Wisconsin Chapter of the Labor Youth League (LYL).

The LYL has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

7-29-93 29803 [REDACTED] EO12812-2

NY 100-168469

Attached herewith are interviews reflecting contact by COLIFAM with relatives of servicemen missing in Vietnam or known to be prisoners of war.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 7/21/70

On July 17, 1970, [REDACTED] New York (NY), was contacted and he advised that he is the brother of [REDACTED] United States Air Force. b2c

Mr. [REDACTED] stated that as of November, 1967, his brother has been missing in action. He further stated that he has handled all his brother's matters for the family and in so handling these affairs involving contact with the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM). b2c

On January 19, 1970, [REDACTED] stated that he had a meeting with several members who had relatives as prisoners of war (POW). These individuals included a [REDACTED] now residing in Belgium; [REDACTED] The purpose of this meeting was to get acquainted and to coordinate efforts on behalf of the POW relatives. b2c

EO 12812-2

Subsequent to this meeting, [REDACTED] stated that on January 23, 1970, he and [REDACTED] walked in unannounced to the headquarters of COLIFAM. [REDACTED] stated that they spoke to MAGGIE GEDDES. GEDDES appeared to [REDACTED] as being extremely intelligent and well versed in her work. [REDACTED] told [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] that COLIFAM worked out a commitment with the North Vietnam Government to have mail relayed from the families to the POW and visa versa. GEDDES also stated that COLIFAM would be in a position to verify if a serviceman was actually a POW or missing in action. b2c

[REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] was interested in this matter in view of the fact that his son was missing in Vietnam. b2c

[REDACTED] stated that he and [REDACTED] drew up a memorandum of this meeting and furnished it to Colonel MILTON K. KEGLEY, Military Assistant to Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense. b2c

On 7/17/70 at [REDACTED] New York File # NY 100-168469

by SA [REDACTED] b2c Date dictated 7/20/70

NY 100-168469

2

b7c

EO 12812-2

[REDACTED] concluded that he had in his possession several pieces of mail from COLIFAM, one of which states that COLIFAM is acting on behalf of the North Vietnamese Government, but that he would prefer not giving them for possible evidenciary material. [REDACTED] stated that unless a subpoena was issued, he would prefer not to testify in this matter. [REDACTED] stated that his brother has an extensive background in engineering and is possibly in a very difficult position if he is a POW. [REDACTED] stated any testimony on his part would greatly endanger his brother if he is still alive.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

7/27/70

Date

On July 23, 1970, Mrs. [REDACTED] New York, New York (NY) was contacted and she advised that her husband [REDACTED] United States Air Force Pilot, has been missing in action since July [REDACTED] 1969. Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that to date he is not a known prisoner of war (POW). Mrs. [REDACTED] stated she believes her husband was shot down over Ban Song Khone, Laos and is unaware if he is still alive.

EO 12812-2

b7c Mrs. [REDACTED] stated she has never been conjoled or harassed by any members of the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) but has received correspondence from them. She furnished the attached copies of correspondence.

b7c Mrs. [REDACTED] concluded that she does not object to the use of this correspondence but would prefer that she remain anonymous in any possible public testimony.

On 7/23/70 at New York, New York File # NY 100-168469  
 by SAS [REDACTED] Date dictated 7/24/70  
 EO 12812-2

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.



NY 100-16846

2

A. AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE INC.

160 North Fifteenth Street,  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102  
Phone 215-563-9372

HENRY J. GADGURY  
HENRY J. GADGURY  
BRONSON P. CLARK  
Executive Secretary

ED 128122

January 20, 1970

Dear Friend,

I am happy to report that during my visit to North Vietnam between December 26, 1969, and January 9, 1970, I was able to deliver to the representatives of the Viet-Nam Committee for Solidarity with American People) about 500 letters that had been forwarded on to me by you and other family members of prisoners of war in North Vietnam.

Immediately prior to my departure from North Vietnam I was given 69 letters from 64 American prisoners of war, and in keeping with the North Vietnamese request these letters have been given to the

Committee of Liaison  
with Families of Service  
men detained in North  
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for transmittal to the individual addressees. We at the American Friends Service Committee are pleased to have had a part in opening a channel for communication between the prisoners and their families and hope that this will continue.

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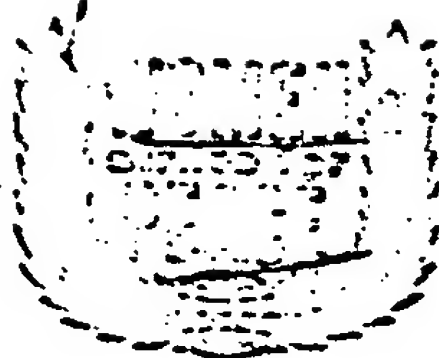
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I have asked my colleagues in Philadelphia to mail this letter to you prior to my return to the United States, so that you might know more promptly that your letter has safely arrived in Hanoi and was given to the appropriate North Vietnamese authorities with my specific request that it be delivered to the individual addressee.

Most sincerely yours,

for: Louis W. Schneider  
Roger G. Fredrickson

RF/h



TWENTY SOUTH TWELFTH STREET

PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19107  
Telephone: 561-2636

January 21, 1970

Dear [redacted]

I am sorry that it has taken me so long to write to you but I've been waiting until I could make definite suggestions to you and now I am pleased to say I can.

I regret very much that I did not bring back a letter for you but now an organization has been set up between the Peace Movement and Hanoi specifically for the purpose of forwarding mail and forwarding inquiries regarding prisoners from the immediate family.

The organization is the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam and is located at 365 W. 42nd Street, New York City, N.Y., 10036.

I am a member of this Committee. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any reason.

Cordially,

*William Taylor*  
Mrs. William Taylor

*Ethel Taylor*

1505 Ashford Way  
Phila., Pa., 19151  
MI 2-9078 (Area Code 215)

P.S. You will shortly receive information directly from the Committee of Liaison with details of its operation.

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

January 27, 1970 (212) 765-1490

Co-chairman:  
David Gellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee (in formation):

Ronnie Davis  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Maggie Goldes  
Steve Richman  
Steve Richman  
Prof. Leo Seltzman  
Ethel Taylor  
Barbara Webster  
Tred Young

Staff

Dear Tim

Ethel Taylor, a member of our newly-formed committee, which will facilitate communication between American servicemen held in North Vietnam and their families, has asked us to contact you. We are enclosing an Information Sheet describing the Committee of Liaison.

We have also duplicated the enclosed letter form which you may wish to use in writing your relative. The North Vietnamese have said that prisoners can send and receive one letter per month and one package (not more than six pounds in weight) every other month. Note the address and mail route given in the Information Sheet.

If you would like us to try to find out if your relative is a prisoner in North Vietnam, send his full name, service number and any details you have on when and where he was shot down. We will then transmit the inquiry to the North Vietnamese and are hopeful of receiving a response to every request made.

It is important to understand that there undoubtedly were many pilots whose planes were shot down but whom the North Vietnamese could not rescue, and that there are prisoners held by the Provisional Revolutionary Government in South Vietnam and by the Pathet Lao in Laos about whom we are not able to get information.

We understand your anguish in not knowing about your relative and we sincerely hope we can be of help in getting information about him for you.

Sincerely,

Barbara Webster

Barbara Webster

P.S. We apologize for sending a mimeographed letter but we wanted to get this word to you as quickly as possible.

COM. THE OF LIAISON

in Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

300 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:

COLIAFAM

Co-chairmen:

Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

February 7, 1970

Treasurer:

Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee (in formation):

Rennie Davis  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
\*Maggie Gaddes  
\*Steve Halliwell  
Stewart Macdonald  
Prof. Leo Seitzman  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
\*Trudi Young

Dear [REDACTED]

We will cabling Hanoi in a couple days and will include a request for information about your husband. If he is a prisoner there we would hope to receive back a letter from him, which we would of course immediately forward on. In any case we will be in touch with you as soon as we get any word at all.

Since the Committee of Liaison has only recently been set up we do not know how long it might be before we can expect a response but imagine it will be at least a month, probably longer.

I do hope we will be able to be of help.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Webster*  
Barbara Webster

NY 100-168469

6

IN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE INC.

160 North Fifteenth Street.  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102  
Phone 215-563-9372

HENRY J. CALSURY

HENRY J. CALSURY

BRONSON P. CLARK  
Executive Secretary

December 15, 1969

Dear Friend,

This is but a brief note to acknowledge receipt of your letter addressed to your family member who is being held as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam.

My current plans call for me to arrive in North Vietnam on or about 26 December at which point I hope to be able to turn your letter along with a large number of other letters from the immediate families of men being held to the appropriate authorities of the Democratic Republic of North Vietnam, along with my request that the letters be delivered to the individual prisoners.

After my return to the United States I will write to you again to let you know whether it was possible to deliver the letters.

Most sincerely yours,



Louis W. Schneider  
Associate Executive Secretary



7

NGÀY VIẾT (Dated).....

1. Phải viết rõ và chỉ được viết trên những dòng kẻ sẵn (*Write legibly and only on the lines*).
2. Trong thư chỉ được nói về tình hình sức khỏe và tình hình gia đình (*Write only about health and family*).
3. Gia đình gửi đến cũng phải theo đúng mẫu, khuôn khổ và quy định này (*Letters from families should also conform to this proforma*).

NY 100-168469

8

*NGƯỜI GỬI (Addressor)*

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

SỐ LÍNH (Service number):

NƠI VÀ NGÀY SINH (Date & place of birth):

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

TRẠI GIAM PHI CÔNG MỸ BỊ BẮT TẠI  
VIA MOSCOW, QUỐC GIA VIỆT - NAM DÂN CHỦ CỘNG HÒA

(Camp of detention for U.S. pilots captured  
in the DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC of VIETNAM)

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

*GỬI (Addressee)*

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 7/16/70

1.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] New York (NY), furnished the following information:

EO 12812-2 She is the mother of [REDACTED] an American Air Force pilot who was shot down and reported missing on or about [REDACTED] 1967, in the Vietnam theater of war.

Following the report that he was missing, neither she nor members of the family had any word concerning him or his whereabouts until on or about January 1, 1968, when she received a handwritten letter from him contained in an envelope. Enclosing this envelope was another envelope containing a typed or printed note stating in effect that instant letter had been transported from North Vietnam by an individual returning to the United States and was one of 30 or 40 such letters from captured American servicemen to their families in the United States. The identification of the sender was not divulged. Since that date she has received several similar letters from her son all delivered in the same manner. She is unable to identify any of the letters she has received as coming from the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM); but stated that in addition to the above mentioned source of letters she has received letters through the Society of Friends (Quakers).

She has forwarded all correspondence so received directly to the Casualty Section at Randolph Air Force Base and has returned none of it. Recently she has also corresponded with the Casualty Section at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey.

She is familiar with COLIFAM from reading about it in the press and is also familiar with the activities of CORA WEISS from the press, but has had no contact in any manner with either COLIFAM, its representatives or CORA WEISS. She stated

On 7/9/70 at [REDACTED] New York File # NY 100-168469  
by SAS [REDACTED] Date dictated 7/13/70

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NY 100-168469

2.

that following the appearance of the article in "Newsday" concerning COLIFAM and the several local American prisoners of war, she was contacted by a representative of "Newsday" with the request that she furnish photographs and submit to an interview. She declined photographs and the interview stating in effect that she was not seeking any publicity. She has not been recontacted by the paper or other news media.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date July 28, 1970

*b7c*  
 Mrs. [REDACTED] Indiana, advised SA [REDACTED] of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that she is the wife of [REDACTED] a pilot in the United States Air Force.

*b7c* *MRS.*  
 Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that her husband was shot down over North Vietnam approximately five years ago and is presently a prisoner of war. She stated that she believed that he is in fairly good health as she has viewed news photographs of him being paraded in Hanoi and she does receive mail from him occasionally. She advised that recently she has been receiving one letter a month from her husband.

*b7c*  
 Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she is aware of an organization known as the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam. She advised that she has received letters from her husband to her that have come through intermediaries which have belonged to various groups that she described as being leftist. She advised that some time around August of 1968 she was receiving these letters with cover letters from the American Friends Service Committee, a member of which was the Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ. She advised that the Reverend FERNANDEZ is also associated with this Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam. She does not recall exactly when the letters started coming with cover letters from this committee, however, it has been for some time.

*b7c*  
 Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that she has never been contacted by the committee except to receive literature from them which would be included in a letter that also enclosed an envelope and letter from her husband. She recalled that in some of the correspondence from the committee she was told to send the letters to her husband back through that committee, but that she has not done so. She advised that the receipt of these letters from the committee has been the extent of her correspondence and connection with that organization. She noted that she has received between seven and ten letters from her husband through this committee. She also advised that she has not received anything else from her husband other than these letters.

NY 100-168469

On 7/24/70 at [REDACTED] Indiana File # IP 100-20786by SA [REDACTED] *b7c* Date dictated 7/24/70



2

IP 100-20786

*b2c*  
Mrs. [REDACTED] recalled that the cover letters usually were form letters and contained some statement to the effect that a member of the committee had been to North Vietnam and had brought the letter back. She stated that there has never been any attempt to describe the visit or identify the members of the committee who worked in North Vietnam or who brought the letters back with them.

*b2c*  
Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she believes that the wife of [REDACTED] at Indianapolis, Indiana, has had the same type of contact with the committee that she has had.

*b2c*  
EO 12812-2 Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she would be willing to cooperate with the United States Government in any way possible and would gladly testify concerning her association with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 12, 1970

*b7c*

Mrs. [REDACTED] Colorado, advised that she is acquainted with Mrs. [REDACTED] California, who was active in the National League of Families of America Prisoners in South-East Asia.

*b7c* *b7c*

[REDACTED]

E012812-2

*b7c*

Mrs. [REDACTED] pointed out that she first heard of an organization using the name "Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam", "COLIFAM", through Mrs. [REDACTED] during, she believed, the latter part of 1969. Mrs. [REDACTED] explained that Mrs. [REDACTED] had contacted her and advised that Mrs. (first name unknown) DUCKLES, representing COLIFAM was going to North Vietnam and confer with Hanoi officials concerning American servicemen who had been captured by the Vietnamese. Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she was advised by letters addressed to the husbands of service wives in America, who were allegedly in custody of the North Vietnamese could be addressed to their husbands, sealed in an envelope and sent to Mrs. DUCKLES for transmittal.

*b7c* *b7c*

*b7c*

Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that Mrs. [REDACTED] indicated that Mrs. DUCKLES would be accompanied by a Mrs. (first name unknown) TAYLOR and a Mrs. (first name unknown) WIESS.

*b7c*

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that upon receipt of this information she called Randolph Air Force Base in Texas and inquired whether a Colonel GRATCH if there were any objections to sending a letter in care of COLIFAM by Mrs. DUCKLES and he said there was not, although, COLIFAM were not "one of the best groups."

On 7/27/70 at [REDACTED] Colorado File # NY 100-168469  
DN 100-10142  
 by SA [REDACTED] *b7c* Date dictated 8/4/70

62  
Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that upon return to the United States of Mrs. DUCKLES and her group she, [REDACTED] was contacted by a Mr. SEAVERTS (phonetic) of the United States State Department and was informed that according to Mrs. DUCKLES and her group, officials in Hanoi had indicated that five American pilots, including her husband, were known to be dead.

67  
Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she has never received any direct communication from the North Vietnamese nor has she received any official word that her husband was dead. Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that in fact it is her belief that her husband is not dead and is still in custody in North Vietnam. Mrs. [REDACTED] pointed out she writes her husband monthly, addressing letters to Hanoi, North Vietnam and none of these letters have been returned to date.

E012812-2  
67  
Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that during February or March of 1970, Mrs. DUCKLES spoke to a group of service wives in Colorado Springs, Colorado, as a representative for COLIFAM, showing films of alleged American atrocity on North Vietnam children and urged that funds be obtained to aid in the relief of the North Vietnam children. Mrs. [REDACTED] pointed out that she herself had not attended this meeting but had been told by other members of the National League of Families of American Prisoners in Southeast Asia who reside in the Colorado Springs area who had attended the meeting of Mrs. DUCKLES presentation. Mrs. [REDACTED] added that reportedly an Air Force representative in plain clothes had attended this meeting in an intelligence capacity.

62  
Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she herself had never received any direct or indirect solicitation from COLIFAM but that a friend, Mrs. [REDACTED], Colorado, wife of [REDACTED] an American U.S. Air Force pilot who like her husband, is missing in action, has received solicitation from COLIFAM following an inquiry by [REDACTED] brother in the State of Pennsylvania regarding information concerning [REDACTED]

62

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

b2c  
Date 8/4/70

1

On July 28, 1970, Mrs. [REDACTED] Ohio was contacted and advised that she is the wife of [REDACTED] USAF, and is presently [REDACTED] for the National League of Families, a POW family organization.

b2c  
Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that she has received four letters from California. The first letter was a form letter advising her that Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ had just returned from a visit to Laos and North Vietnam, and that he had brought back a letter from her husband. This letter was signed by STEVEN E. HALLIWELL. A second letter was received from [REDACTED] with an enclosed letter which stated that LOUIS SCHNEIDER had recently been handed this letter and 58 others from POW's in North Vietnam. On May 4, 1970, a third letter reached Mrs. [REDACTED]. This letter gave instructions as to how to write to the POW's (paper type, weight, restrictions), and how often writing was allowed. The letter related the details of a meeting which Reverend FERNANDEZ and Professor DOUGLAS DOND had with three POW pilots: Comander WALTER WILBUR, Virginia Beach, Comander ROBERT SCHWERTZER, Lemoore, California, and Lieutenant Colonel EDISON MILLER, Santa Ana, California. The three men were in good health, had daily exercise, reading materials, and were receiving letters and packages from the United States. They asked that these packages include toilet articles and canned foods.

b2c  
Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that she had gone to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in early January and had attended a meeting with ETHEL TAYLOR. TAYLOR extolled "the great compassion of the North Vietnamese", and asked for contributions to support the work of the Committee. The meeting took place in a church, but Mrs. [REDACTED] could not remember its name or location. TAYLOR gave Mrs. [REDACTED] an information sheet which explained the background and purpose of COLIFAM.

b2c

NY 100-168469

On 7/28/70 at [REDACTED] Ohio File # Cleveland 100-30437

b2c  
by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 7/29/70

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 7/30/70

1

b2c

On July 23, 1970, Mrs. [REDACTED] Ohio was contacted and advised that her son, [REDACTED] is a [REDACTED] in the United States Air Force and presently a POW in North Vietnam. He has been a POW since his plane was shot down in March, 1966.

Mrs. [REDACTED] has received three letters from her son. The first was enclosed in a letter from COLIFAM. Unfortunately, she could not remember where it was put away.

EO 12812-2

Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that her daughter-in-law, Mrs. [REDACTED] was on vacation in Massachusetts but was expected back July 28, 1970. She could provide any further information that the FBI might need.

NY 100-168469

On 7/23/70 at [REDACTED] Ohio File # Cleveland 100-30437

EO 12812-2

b2c

by [REDACTED] Date dictated 7/24/70

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 7/30/70

1

Mr. [REDACTED] Ohio was contacted July 23, 1970, and advised that he had received one letter from his son, [REDACTED] United States Marine Corps, which was addressed to his daughter-in-law, [REDACTED]

EO 12812-2 [REDACTED] has no idea of whether or not any more correspondence has come through from his son or the committee. He advised that his daughter-in-law has cut herself off from he and his wife. She does not answer any of their correspondence.

NY 100-168469

On 7/23/70 at [REDACTED] Ohio File # Cleveland 100-30437by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 7/24/70

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

b2c  
Date 7/2/70

Mrs. [REDACTED] was advised that she was being contacted with respect to her contacts with the Committee of Liason with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM). Mrs. [REDACTED] stated she is the wife of [REDACTED] currently a prisoner of war in North Vietnam. She was first contacted by COLIFAM by letter dated January 27, 1970, which was a form letter instructing her how to correspond with her husband. She has received two subsequent similar letters from COLIFAM. In addition, in April 1970, she received a telephone call from the Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ who told her he had talked with her husband and had taken a photograph of him which he would forward to her. FERNANDEZ told her her husband was well and was receiving her letters. He did not specify who his contacts were in Hanoi or how he was able to travel there to interview her husband.

EO 12812-2

b2c  
Mrs. [REDACTED] stated she has received two letters from her husband through COLIFAM and is convinced by them that he has not received any of her letters which she has sent through COLIFAM. She stated she has always cleared all such activities through the Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, California. She indicated she was entirely opposed to COLIFAM and sent letters through them only as a last effort to get a letter through to her husband. She indicated she would be willing to cooperate in any way should her testimony be needed.

b2c  
Mrs. [REDACTED] also stated she received two copies of a photograph of three prisoners of war, one of which was her husband and that these pictures were sent to her by the Reverend FERNANDEZ in mid-May 1970.

NY 100-168469

On 6/29/70 at [REDACTED] California File # Los Angeles 97-373

by SA [REDACTED] b2c Date dictated 6/30/70

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GENERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 7/2/70

b2c

Mrs. [REDACTED] was advised that she was being contacted with respect to her contacts with the Committee of Liason with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM). [REDACTED] stated she is the wife of [REDACTED] currently a prisoner of war in North Vietnam. She was first contacted by COLIFAM by letter dated January 27, 1970, which was a form letter instructing her how to correspond with her husband. She has received two subsequent similar letters from COLIFAM. In addition, in April 1970, she received a telephone call from the Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ who told her he had talked with her husband and had taken a photograph of him which he would forward to her. FERNANDEZ told her her husband was well and was receiving her letters. He did not specify who his contacts were in Hanoi or how he was able to travel there to interview her husband.

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated she has received two letters from her husband through COLIFAM and is convinced by them that he has not received any of her letters which she has sent through COLIFAM. She stated she has always cleared all such activities through the Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, California. She indicated she was entirely opposed to COLIFAM and sent letters through them only as a last effort to get a letter through to her husband. [REDACTED] indicated she would be willing to cooperate in any way should her testimony be needed.

EO 12812-2

Mrs. [REDACTED] also stated she received two copies of a photograph of three prisoners of war, one of which was her husband and that these pictures were sent to her by the Reverend FERNANDEZ in mid-May 1970.

NY 100-168469

On 6/29/70 at [REDACTED] California File # Los Angeles 97-373

by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 6/30/70

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## BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 7/7/70

E012812-2

Mrs. [REDACTED] advised she is the mother of [REDACTED] is a prisoner of the North Vietnamese.

advised  
USAF, who

In December 1969, an individual, whose name she cannot recall, wrote and told her to contact MADELINE DUCKLES, in Berkeley, California, as Mrs. DUCKLES was going to Hanoi and would carry a letter to her son.

On January 17, 1970, she received a letter from CORA WEISS on the letterhead of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam. Two letters from her son accompanied this letter. She stated this was the first contact that she had had with this committee. (Copy of this letter of transmittal is attached as Appendix A).

Subsequent to this time, on February 23, 1970, she received a letter dated January 1970 on the letterhead of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam. This was entitled "Information Sheet" and is Appendix B attached.

Also in February 1970, she received a letter dated January 27, 1970, from a MAGGIE GEDDES on the letterhead of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, this is Appendix C attached.

In January 1970, she received a letter from ROGER G. FREDRICKSON dated January 20, 1970, from the American Friends Service Committee. This is Appendix D attached.

E012812-2

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she also received a letter from her son on May 10, 1970, but was unable to recall if the letter was transmitted through the Committee of Liaison. She stated that the last contact, that she can recall, with this committee was when she visited their offices in New York City during the spring of 1970. She stated that at this time

NY 100-168469

On 7/2/70 at [REDACTED] California File # Los Angeles 97-378

by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 7/6/70

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<sup>2</sup>  
LA 97-378

she met TRUDI YOUNG and MAGGIE GEDDES. At this time she had a letter that she wished to be delivered to her son and they would not accept it at this time stating that they preferred the letters be transmitted by correspondence.

1  
EO 12812-2

Mrs. [REDACTED] <sup>b7c</sup> stated that there was no indication in the letters that she received from her son that he had received any of the letters that she had sent to him. Mrs. [REDACTED] concluded by stating that she would be willing to testify to the contacts she has had with this committee.

b7c



NY 100-168469

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam  
365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036 (212)765-1490

Dear Mr. & Mrs. [REDACTED] *62c 12812-2 62c*

We are enclosing a letter to you from [REDACTED] written from a camp of detention in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. The letter is forwarded to you through the newly formed Committee of Liaison of which we are members.

This letter, along with 63 others, was recently handed to Louis Schneider by Vietnamese authorities in Hanoi, and he mailed them to us from Hong Kong. This was in line with a system for handling such letters which has been opened up to our Committee by the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

The Committee of Liaison is composed of individuals active in the American peace movement and opposed to the U.S. military intervention in Vietnam. The Democratic Republic of Vietnam has decided to use our Committee as a channel for communication between the captured airmen in detention camps in North Vietnam and their relatives in the United States.

Please excuse the fact that this letter is dittoed rather than typed on letterhead. We are a new committee and we want you to receive the enclosed without delay. Therefore we are mailing this letter immediately without waiting for printed letterhead and envelopes.

We shall send you further information within the next few days regarding the liaison services our Committee is now able to perform.

In closing we wish to express the deep hope that the U.S. government will come to its senses, withdraw its armed forces from Vietnam, and thus make it possible for the families, both American and Vietnamese which have been separated as a result of this cruel war, to be reunited.

Sincerely yours,  
For the Committee of Liaison

*Richard Fernandez*  
Richard Fernandez  
Clergy and Laymen  
Concerned About Vietnam

*Stewart Meacham*  
Stewart Meacham  
American Friends  
Service Committee

*Ethel Taylor*  
Ethel Taylor  
Women's Strike  
for Peace

Other members of the Committee are: David Dellinger, Cora Weiss, Rennie Davis, Anne Bennett, Bea Seitzman, Maggie Gaddes, Trudi Young, Steve Halliwell, Barbara Webster

# COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

*with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam*

365 West 42nd Street New York N.Y. 10036

212-765-1490

January, 1970

## INFORMATION SHEET

Chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee (in formation):

Rennie Davis  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Maggie Gaddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Ethel Taylor  
Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young  
Staff

### Background

In the course of the Vietnam war, links have been built between the people of Vietnam and Americans who oppose the war through numerous meetings and conferences. These meetings have taken place in Europe, Canada, Cuba and Southeast Asia and have included people from both the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam) and the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam (now part of the Provisional Revolutionary Government).

In these meetings the Vietnamese have always stressed a distinction between the U.S. government, whom they hold responsible for the policy of war, and the U.S. people, whom they believe still value the goals upon which this country is founded--independence, justice, freedom and equality. This same distinction is evident to those Americans who have visited North Vietnam and found that even though the nation is armed to defend itself, the people are encouraged by their government to believe that the American people are basically decent and humane.

It is therefore understandable that the Vietnamese should indicate their basic confidence in the American people through the peace movement which they believe embodies American ideals, rather than the government. And in the past, the Vietnamese have asked the peace movement to receive U.S. servicemen--primarily pilots whose planes were shot down--when the North Vietnamese government has decided to release them. On three separate occasions--February 1968, July 1968 and July 1969--the peace movement has gone to Hanoi and returned with released servicemen; on one occasion an American peace activist went to Phnom Penh, Cambodia to receive three released NLF captives.

In addition, Americans visiting Hanoi have frequently carried letters here at the request of families, and have brought back letters from servicemen. There have also been occasions when American peace activists have met prisoners and talked with them.

### Functions of the Committee

Committee of Liaison has now been established as an extension of these past efforts at the request of the North Vietnamese. As on past occasions, the peace movement is responding to a request by the Vietnamese to meet a specific, immediate need and is not in any sense repre-

Functions of the Committee

A Committee of Liaison has now been established as an extension of these past efforts at the request of the North Vietnamese. As on past occasions, the peace movement is responding to a request by the Vietnamese to meet a specific, immediate need and is not in any sense representing the government of North Vietnam.

The Committee will seek to facilitate communication between families in the U.S. and servicemen now imprisoned in North Vietnam. Basically, the Committee will receive letters from servicemen and forward them through the domestic mails, thereby decreasing, we hope, past problems in the receipt of such mail. We will also forward letters to North Vietnam at the request of relatives. Families are of course still free to send letters and parcels directly but should note that the instructions on mailing previously issued by the State Department are wrong. The correct address is:

name of serviceman  
serial number  
Camp of Detention of U.S. Pilots  
Captured in the D.R.V.  
Hanoi, Democratic Republic of Vietnam  
via Moscow, U.S.S.R.

In addition, it is possible that the Vietnamese will be able to verify

requests for information about servicemen from families who are uncertain if their relatives are being held in North Vietnam. Requests should be submitted to the Committee, but there is no certainty when and if the North Vietnamese will be able to respond. The Committee will of course transmit immediately any information that it receives to the family.

### Clarification

Two clarifications are in order: first, it should be noted that the Committee will be dealing solely with the government of North Vietnam and will not have any information on men held in South Vietnam by the Provisional Revolutionary Government. Nor will we be able to provide information at this time concerning men held in Laos or any other Southeast Asian country where U.S. troops and aircraft are presently involved in combat missions.

Secondly, the Committee will function entirely apart from the U.S. government. The U.S. government has frequently made it more difficult for the Vietnamese to be open to the concerns of American families by using the families' genuine desires as a propaganda ploy. The government has further attempted to provoke an angry response from the Vietnamese by publicizing unsubstantiated and inflammatory testimony from fliers already released: apparently, the government has decided to jeopardize existing communications and the possibility of future releases for the sake of propaganda aimed at prolonging the war. The North Vietnamese are also very aware that the U.S. government's claims of humanitarian concerns are contradicted by the well-documented policy of torture and brutality practiced on prisoners taken in the South by U.S. and Saigon troops.

In addition to all these factors, there is the simple fact that the resolution of the fate of all the servicemen now held in North Vietnam waits ultimately upon a U.S. decision to end the war and withdraw all its forces and materiel.

### Who We Are

We firmly believe that the safe return of those men and the half million others that the U.S. maintains in South Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and aboard naval vessels--who can also be viewed as prisoners, prisoners of their own government since many have been sent to fight in a war against the dictates of their own conscience--can only come with a decision on the part of the U.S. government to withdraw from Vietnam. Because of this conviction, we who are serving on this Committee will continue our efforts to create popular pressure strong enough to force the government to withdraw.

We are active in a variety of organizations committed to ending the war: American Friends Service Committee, the New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, Clergy and Laymen Concerned about Vietnam, Women Strike for Peace, The Conspiracy, and Women Against Daddy Warbucks. The Committee is supported by donations from individuals and organizations, and welcomes any gifts to sustain its work.



with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

305 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Coro Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee (in formation):  
Rennie Davis  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
\*Maggie Geddes  
\*Steve Halliwell  
Stewart Meecham  
Prof. Ben Seitzman  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
\*Trudi Young  
  
\*staff

January 27, 1970

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]

EO 12812-2

We assume that by this time you have received the letter from North Vietnam which was forwarded to you by members of our Committee. We are enclosing an Information Sheet which explains the work of the Committee of Liaison.

The North Vietnamese have said that prisoners will be able to receive and send one letter a month. As noted in the Information Sheet, you may send letters directly to North Vietnam (note the mail address and route). If you would like us to forward them for you, please enclose but do not affix stamps as we will be sending them on in packets. We are also enclosing a letter form which you might wish to use, whether you send it directly or through us. Prisoners can also receive one package, not over six pounds in weight, every other month.

To insure the safe and rapid delivery of mail from prisoners, the North Vietnamese will send periodic packets of letters through our office. The letters will then be dispatched immediately to the families to whom they are addressed.

The only way to secure the eventual release of prisoners is through the decision by the United States to end the war. But in the meantime we are pleased to be able to assist in the communication between men and their families. We hope to forward letters on to you again soon.

Sincerely,

*Maggie Geddes*

Maggie Geddes

P.S. Before mailing the above out your letters of 1/23 arrived and I thought I'd just add a note to say that we assume the Vietnamese gave the Christmas card to your son as our Committee did not. If you have any questions after reading the above and the enclosed do not hesitate to write us again.



AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE INC.



160 North Fifteenth Street,  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102  
Phone 215-563-9372

HENRY BELRITS  
Chairman

HENRY J. CADOURY  
Honorary Chairman

BROOKSON P. CLARK  
Executive Secretary

January 20, 1970

Dear Friend,

I am happy to report that during my visit to North Vietnam between December 26, 1969, and January 9, 1970, I was able to deliver to the representatives of the Vietmy (Viet Nam Committee for Solidarity with American People) about 500 letters that had been forwarded on to me by you and other family members of prisoners of war in North Vietnam.

Immediately prior to my departure from North Vietnam I was given 69 letters from 64 American prisoners of war, and in keeping with the North Vietnamese request these letters have been given to the

Committee of Liaison  
with Families of Service  
men detained in North  
Vietnam  
365 W. 42nd Street  
New York, New York

for transmittal to the individual addressees. We at the American Friends Service Committee are pleased to have had a part in opening a channel for communication between the prisoners and their families and hope that this will continue.

You may be interested to know that during my visit to North Vietnam I was able to deliver a second contribution of open heart surgical equipment to the Binh Vien Viet-Duc Hospital in Hanoi in keeping with a long-standing Quaker concern for civilian sufferers on both sides of a war.

Following my departure from North Vietnam I traveled on to Quang Ngai in South Vietnam to visit the American Friends Service Committee (Quaker) rehabilitation project for civilian casualties.

I have asked my colleagues in Philadelphia to mail this letter to you prior to my return to the United States, so that you might know more promptly that your letter has safely arrived in Hanoi and was given to the appropriate North Vietnamese authorities with my specific request that it be delivered to the individual addressee.

Most sincerely yours,

for: Louis W. Schneider

- 31 - Roger G. Fredrickson

RF/h

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 7/10/70  
b2c

Mrs. [REDACTED] advised she is the mother of [REDACTED] a [REDACTED] in the Air Force and currently a prisoner in North Vietnam. She advised that she had been contacted by one of the other families, in the Los Angeles area, who had kin in North Vietnam, that a Mrs. DUCKLES of Berkeley, California, was traveling to Hanoi in November 1969, and would take a letter to her son. She contacted Mr. DUCKLES and sent a letter to Mrs. DUCKLES for transmittal to her son.

In January 1970, she received a letter from her son which was accompanied by a letter of transmittal from the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (see Appendix A).

She received another letter from her son, dated February 14, 1970, which was transmitted to her by a letter from the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, dated April 20, 1970 (see Appendix B), both of these letters from her son asked whether his sister had been married. This indicated to her that he had not received her letter in November 1969, inasmuch as she told him at that time that his sister was married.

E012812-2

In May 1970, she received a letter, dated May 4, 1970, from the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (see Appendix C). This letter gave her instructions as to packages and correspondence being sent to prisoners.

Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that she would be willing to testify in any hearings concerning the above committee.

NY 100-168469

On 6/30/70 at [REDACTED] California File # Los Angeles 97-378by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 7/7/70  
b2c

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

NY 100-168469

Dear Mr. & Mrs. [REDACTED]

b7c  
 EO 12812-2

We are enclosing a letter to you from [REDACTED] written from a camp of detention in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. The letter is forwarded to you through the newly formed Committee of Liaison of which we are members.

This letter, along with 30 others, was recently handed to Louis Schneider by Vietnamese authorities in Hanoi, and he mailed them to us from Hong Kong. This was in line with a system for handling such letters which has been opened up to our Committee by the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

The Committee of Liaison is composed of individuals active in the American peace movement and opposed to the U.S. military intervention in Vietnam. The Democratic Republic of Vietnam has decided to use our Committee as a channel for communication between the captured airmen in detention camps in North Vietnam and their relatives in the United States.

Please excuse the fact that this letter is dittoed rather than typed on letterhead. We are a new committee and we want you to receive the enclosed without delay. Therefore we are mailing this letter immediately without waiting for printed letterhead and envelope.

We shall send you further information within the next few days regarding the liaison services our Committee is now able to perform.

In closing we wish to express the deep hope that the U.S. government will come to its senses, withdraw its armed forces from Vietnam, and thus make it possible for the families, both American and Vietnamese which have been separated as a result of this cruel war, to be reunited.

Sincerely yours,  
 For the Committee of Liaison

*Richard Fernandez*  
 Richard Fernandez  
 Clergy and Laymen  
 Concerned About Vietnam

*Stewart Mascham*  
 Stewart Mascham  
 American Friends  
 Service Committee

*Ethel Taylor*  
 Ethel Taylor  
 Women's Strike  
 for Peace

Other members of the Committee are: David Dellinger, Cora Weiss, Rennie Davis, Anne Bennett, Bea Spitzman, Maggie Gaddes, Trudi Young, Steve Halliwell, Barbara Webster

Appendix A

*Received from AR1 Jan 19 1970*  
 0 - 33 - [unclear] [unclear]

NY 100-168469  
**COMMITTEE OF LIAISON**

**with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam**

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

April 20, 1970

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Coro Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee  
Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Modeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED] b7c

EO 12812-2

Rev. Richard Fernandez, a member of the Committee of Liaison, returned today from a two-week trip to Laos and North Vietnam. He brought back the enclosed letter along with 201 others from prisoners being held in North Vietnam.

While there, Rev. Fernandez held a lengthy interview with three pilots, Cdr. Robert Schweitzer, Cdr. Walter Wilber and Lt. Col. Edison Miller. He also was advised by North Vietnamese authorities that families should write letters monthly on the enclosed air-letter forms. We are therefore sending several to you at this time and will send more with subsequent mail.

We are of course very pleased to be able to forward this letter to you.

Sincerely yours,

*Steven E. Halliwell*  
Steven E. Halliwell

Appendix B



*with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam*

365 West 12nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

May 4, 1970

Co-chairmen:

Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:

Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee

Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Ben Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

From: Rev. Richard Fernandez

To: The families of the 335 presently confirmed prisoners held in North Vietnam

Re: Information on correspondence with prisoners

On April 20th I returned from a three-week trip to Laos and North Vietnam. In North Vietnam I spoke with officials responsible for communication between pilots held in detention there and their families here. The following information was emphasized to me by the North Vietnamese authorities and we are anxious to make sure that you are aware of it:

- 1) The Vietnamese recommend that families use the air-letter form (enclosed) for correspondence.
- 2) Communication to pilots should be limited to matters of family and health.
- 3) Pilots are allowed to receive one letter per month and one package every other month (not over six pounds in weight).

Staff

Detention Camp authorities have said that they do not wish to receive several letters and/or packages per month for a given pilot from different members of the same family. Families should make arrangements for alternating letters each month if different members

want to write.

The North Vietnamese authorities indicated that, from this point forward, they will not feel responsible for forwarding letters and packages that do not adhere to the above.

If the letter form is mailed directly it can go in another envelope but the mail route, "via Moscow, U.S.S.R.," should definitely be included in the address. If letters are sent to the Committee of Liaison for forwarding please enclose but do not affix stamps as we send letters on in packets. The Committee cannot forward packages for families.

While I was in Hanoi, Prof. Douglas Dowd of Cornell University and I met with three pilots: Cdr. Robert Schweitzer of Lemoore, California; Cdr. Walter Wilbur of Virginia Beach and Lt. Col. Edison Miller of Santa Ana, California. The three men were in good health, and said they had daily exercise and reading material. The three pilots advised us that they had been getting letters and packages from their



Richard Fernandez me - page 2

families, and asked that packages include toilet articles and canned foods. In particular they mentioned soap, shaving cream (no razors or blades), toothpaste, powdered milk and cream, instant coffee and non-melting candy. They said they do not need clothes.

Also, in my discussions with the Vietnam Committee of Solidarity with the American People, the Committee of Liaison's contact in North Vietnam, we confirmed that since December over 800 letters have been sent from Hanoi through the Committee of Liaison. Of those, 156 letters are still on their way from Hanoi to families here.

We hope that this information clarifies some aspects of correspondence for you. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☐ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☐ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☐ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☐ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

- ☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

• Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

- ☒ For your information: THIS PAGE DOES NOT APPEAR

IN FILE.

- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

100 - 457 829 - 112 PAGE 32

XXXXXX  
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XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
X DELETED PAGE(S) X  
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X  
X FOR THIS PAGE X  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

<sup>2</sup>  
LA 97-278

*b7c*  
Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that she received, thereafter, a letter, dated April 25, 1970, from this organization in which was enclosed a letter from her husband dated December 13, 1969.

*b7c*  
Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that she has received no further communication since that date. She stated that in contact with Mrs. WEISS, she was advised that the organization received packets of mail from Hanoi. She asked Mrs. WEISS how her organization was maintained and asked her if she wanted a donation. She was advised by Mrs. WEISS that the organization could use donations, but that none was ever solicited from her.

*b7c*  
Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that she realizes that the organization is undoubtedly communist oriented, especially looking at the list of names on a brochure which she also received from the organization. She stated that from this list of names and from things which she has read and found out about the organization, they are probably communist oriented, but this made no difference to her, and she would use any possible means to receive a letter from her husband and that she was not at all reluctant to contact this organization.

E012812-2

*b7c*  
Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that at the present time she did not care to take any further action, but she would certainly cooperate with the United States Government. She emphasized that she has had no further contact with this organization, that she was never solicited in regards to any funds or donations, was never asked to do anything for this organization, and could furnish no further information.

*b7c*  
Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that should she receive any information in the future, she would make immediate contact with the FBI. Mrs. [REDACTED] made available the brochure which she received from the organization in regards to the founding of the organization and persons involved therein.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New York, New York  
September 9, 1970

In Reply, Please Refer to

File No. Bufile (100-457899)  
NYfile (100-168469)

Title Committee of Liaison With Families of  
Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam  
(COLIFAM)

Character Internal Security-Miscellaneous  
Registration Act-North Vietnam

Reference is made to report of Special Agent  
b7c [REDACTED] dated and captioned as  
above at New York, New York.

E012812-2

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities  
are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable  
information in the past.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)  
b7c  
FROM : SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (100-15134) (P)

DATE: 9/10/70

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES  
OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM  
(COLIFAM)  
IS - MISCELLANEOUS  
REGISTRATION ACT  
b7c

OO: New York  
7-29-93-9805 b7c

Re San Antonio letter to the Bureau dated  
8/27/70.

By referenced communication, Minneapolis  
was furnished the names of 27 men listed either as  
missing in action or being held prisoner of war in Vietnam,  
and whose relatives reside in the territory covered by  
the Minneapolis Division. There is no indication  
that any of these families have been in contact with  
COLIFAM.

E012812-2

This office has already or is in the process  
of interviewing members of the families of nine of  
these 27. Several of the nine have already been interviewed  
and have informed this office they have had no contact  
at anytime with COLIFAM.

Accordingly, and, UACB, Minneapolis has no  
intention of contacting members of all the 27 men whose  
names were furnished by San Antonio. b7c

The above is for information.

REC-49  
- Bureau (RM)  
New York (100-168469) (RM) (Info)  
Minneapolis  
100-457899-113  
5 SEP 14 1970

b7c  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan



F B I

Date: 9/2/70

Transmit the following in *b7c*

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via *b7c*

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)

FROM: SAC, SAN DIEGO (105-7282) (P\*)

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES  
OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH  
VIETNAM (COLIFAM)  
IS - MISC.  
REGISTRATION ACT - NORTH VIETNAM  
OO: New York

Re San Antonio letter to the Bureau dated 8/27/70  
with enclosure; reports of SA *b7c* dated 6/9/70;  
7/30/70; and 8/19/70 at San Diego.

*E012812-2* Referenced San Antonio letter set forth names  
of numerous individuals thought to be relatives of  
individuals who are missing in action or prisoners of war  
in North Vietnam.

San Diego has conducted extensive investigation  
as reported in referenced reports concerning this matter  
as the result of which a conclusion is possible concerning  
this Registration Act matter. It is believed that additional  
interviews would not at this time logically be expected to  
result in additional information not already reported of an  
evidentiary nature.

Therefore, in view of the above UACB, lead  
material set forth in referenced San Antonio letter  
will not be utilized for further interviews in the San  
Diego Division.

- ② - Bureau
- 2 - San Diego

REC 11

100-457899-114

ST-121

SEP 4 1970

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

NAT. INT. SEC.

Approved: *24*

56 SEP 1970

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

M

Per

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>TAMPA</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>NEW YORK</b>	DATE <b>9/10/70</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>6/30 - 9/1/70</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>SA [REDACTED] b7c</b>	TYPED <b>[REDACTED]</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>IS - MISCELLANEOUS REGISTRATION ACT - NORTH VIETNAM</b>	

REFERENCES:

*b7c*  
Tampa report of SA [REDACTED] dated 7/20/70.  
San Antonio letter to the Bureau dated 8/27/70.

-RUC-

ADMINISTRATIVE:

It is noted that in referenced communication from San Antonio there are names of wives in the Tampa area who have husbands that are prisoners of war or that are missing in action in North Vietnam. UACB, those not already contacted will not be interviewed, because those that were contacted did not give the other wives' names, as individuals who have been contacted by COLIFAM.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						<input type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			
								PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

APPROVED *f [REDACTED] b7c* SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

## COPIES MADE:

- ② - Bureau (100-457899) (RM)  
2 - New York (100-168469) (RM)  
1 - Tampa (97-59)

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

100-457899-115 REG 83

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE~~

Dissemination Record of Attached Report				
Agency	ARMY, ASE, NIS, SS, STATE, CIA			
Request Recd.	AHC-ISA			
Date Fwd.	7/21/71			
How Fwd.	Quincy R/S F			
By	[REDACTED] b7c			

Notations

980 [REDACTED]  
7-29-93  
9/3/82  
4220,967  
4220,673  
GPO

66 SEP 20 1970

A\*  
COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: SA [REDACTED] **b7c**  
Date: SEPTEMBER 10, 1970

Office: TAMPA

Field Office File #: 97-59

Bureau File #: 100-457899

Title: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED  
IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - MISCELLANEOUS  
REGISTRATION ACT - NORTH VIETNAM **b7c**

Synopsis: On 6/30/70, Mrs. [REDACTED] Fla., advised she has received mail from husband through captioned group, and that all materials received have been given to her Casualty Service Officer, U.S. Air Force, Randolph AFB, San Antonio, Texas. On 7/1/70, Mrs. [REDACTED] Florida, advised no contact with COLIFAM, but she did call CORA WEISS on one occasion in an attempt to learn more about husband, after reading statement by WEISS that husband was listed as deceased by government of North Vietnam. On 7/1/70, Lt. Commander MELVIN BOLT, Director, Military Personnel and Coordinator, Casualty Assistance Calls Program, U.S. Naval Training Center, Orlando, Fla., advised all information dealing with COLIFAM given to Chief of the Bureau of Naval Personnel, WDC. On 7/10/70, [REDACTED] Fla., advised she has received no correspondence from COLIFAM, but she did in July of 1970, send a letter to her husband through COLIFAM with negative results. On 7/22/70, [REDACTED] Fla., advised she has received several letters from captioned group, and through them has received a letter from her husband, but no communist propaganda from COLIFAM. On 9/1/70, [REDACTED] Fla., advised she has had only limited contact with COLIFAM through form letters.

7-29-93

9803

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

DETAILS: **b7c**

-RUC-

DATE 9/18/82  
#220,673

JPG

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 7/13/70

b7c  
MRS. [REDACTED] advised that her husband is in the United States Air Force and he is a prisoner of war in North Vietnam.

She stated that she had no personal contact with the COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM) but she does receive mail from her husband through this group. She advised she averages receiving about one letter per month from her husband through this group and previously she had waited for as long as a year before receiving a letter.

b7c  
MRS. [REDACTED] advised that she had just received a letter from BARBARA WEBSTER of COLIFAM on 6/29/70, enclosing a letter from her husband. She said that the letter from COLIFAM was dated 6/26/70, which stated to the effect that 105 other letters from prisoners of war detained in North Vietnam had been brought back to this country by a group of anti-war people who had just returned from a visit to North Vietnam. The letter alleged that this brought the total to 1,110 letters which COLIFAM had forwarded to families since last December.

E012812-2

b7c  
MRS. [REDACTED] said that all of her contacts had been by mail with COLIFAM and they were usually by BARBARA WEBSTER.

b7c  
MRS. [REDACTED] stated that on one occasion COLIFAM had indicated that she could contribute to them but she only sent them some stamps with which to forward her letters.

b7c  
MRS. [REDACTED] advised that COLIFAM had always made it a point to indicate that their sole function was to get mail for families and prisoners of war. She said she recalled no statements on their part which would indicate that they were representing Hanoi, North Vietnam, or any foreign government.

b7c  
MRS. [REDACTED] she advised that she desired to assist the FBI and the Department of Justice. She advised that she did not want to jeopardize, in any way, her contact with her husband.

b7c  
On 6/30/70 at [REDACTED] Florida File # 97-59

b7c  
by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 7/7/70

E012812-2

b2c

MRS. [REDACTED] advised that she had immediately turned over all materials received and information concerning her mail contacts with COLIFAM to her Casualty Service Officer of the United States Air Force, Casualty Division located at Randolph Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. She advised that on that date she had been in telephonic contact with him and she was advised by him that they were aware of the investigation being conducted concerning COLIFAM and that they were taking steps to turn over all pertinent information to the appropriate authorities in the matter. She stated that she had been advised to cooperate in an interview but requested not to furnish the names of other prisoner's families, furnish any other material, or agree to testify, in the interests of protecting the families and their contacts with the prisoners of war.



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 7/14/70

**[REDACTED]**  
 Florida advised she is the wife of **[REDACTED]** United States Navy who is officially listed as having been captured in North Vietnam.

MRS. **[REDACTED]** advised that she has had no contact with her husband since he has been missing in action.

MRS. **[REDACTED]** advised that she has never had any contact with the COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM) but she, on one occasion, had called CORA WEISS in Bronx, New York in an attempt to get some information about her husband following a statement by WEISS which indicated the North Vietnam officials had listed her husband as being deceased.

E012812-2 MRS. **[REDACTED]** advised that she had been trying to get letters to her husband without any success and on 11/26/69, she received information through a group of prisoners of war wives about a MRS. WILLIAM TAYLOR, 1505 Ashford Way, Overbrook Hills, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania who was among a group of women pacifists going to Hanoi with the American Friends Service Committee. She prepared a letter to her husband and sent it to MRS. TAYLOR on about November 27, 1969.

MRS. **[REDACTED]** stated that on December 23, 1969, she was advised by the United States Navy Bureau of Naval Personnel that they had received some information which had been passed on to the State Department on 12/22/69, from CORA WEISS of the WOMEN'S STRIKE FOR PEACE organization who had just returned from Hanoi. They advised that the reliability of the information was unknown. According to this source, the group had delivered letters from servicemen's families to North Vietnam and within hours after delivering the letters five of them were returned to MRS. WEISS along with the comment that the prisoners to whom they were addressed had either died in their parachutes or had died thereafter from injuries received when captured. **[REDACTED]** was one of these for whom mail was returned.

On 7/1/60 at **[REDACTED]** FLORIDA File # 97-59

by SA **[REDACTED]** Date dictated 7/8/70

b7c  
MRS. [REDACTED] checked her personal telephone bill and advised from it that on January 9, 1970, she had called CORA WEISS in the Bronx, New York, telephone number, 212 549-4478, and told her that her husband had been reported as being captured in North Vietnam in March, 1969, but CORA WEISS answered to the effect that she felt her information was true as the North Vietnamese people feel very badly about death and they would not pass on erroneous information about that. WEISS said that she would not presume anyone to be a prisoner in North Vietnam unless a photograph or a letter was received from the prisoner. WEISS promised to recontact Hanoi for some further information in the matter and call back but MRS. STAMM advised she had not heard from WEISS since that time.

E012812-2

b7c  
MRS. [REDACTED] advised that prior to the above incident she had attempted to send letters through the American Friends Service Committee without any success and following her call to CORA WEISS she had not ever heard anything from that group either. She said she had never known how the latter group had originally gotten her name.

b7c  
MRS. [REDACTED] advised that she is willing to testify for the United States Government.

b7c  
[REDACTED] advised that MRS. [REDACTED] California had also had a letter to her husband returned, according to CORA WEISS.

b7c  
MRS. [REDACTED] advised that all information known to her has also been furnished to her Casualty Assistance Officer, Commander B OTT at the United States Navy Training Center, Orlando, Florida.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 7/14/70

Lieutenant Commander MELVIN BOTT, Director of Military Personnel and Coordinator, Casualty Assistance Calls Program, United States Navy Training Center, Orlando, Florida advised that contacts by the COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM with the families of United States Navy personnel who are prisoners of war in North Vietnam are immediately furnished to the local office which sends the information to the Chief of the Bureau of Naval Personnel in Washington, DC and Captain WEBSTER is the person in authority to release information about these matters.

On 7/1/70 at ORLANDO, FLORIDA File # 97-59  
E012812-2 b7c  
 by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 7/8/70

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

7/16/70

1

Date \_\_\_\_\_

*b2c*  
 [REDACTED] Florida, informed that her husband, [REDACTED] of the United States Air Force, was reported to have been shot down in Laos on [REDACTED] 1969. She said that she has not heard from her husband or any word from any source that would indicate his condition.

*b2c*  
 Mrs. [REDACTED] said that the North Vietnamese Government denies any knowledge of pilots who have been shot down in Laos.

She said that she has received no correspondence from the Committee of Liaison With Families of Service Men Detained in North Vietnam.

She indicated that she had received a letter from the United States Air Force dated June 9, 1970, which indicated that one Reverend FERNANDEZ had advised representatives of the Air Force that the only mail that would be received by prisoners in North Vietnam was that directed through the Committee of Liaison With Families of Service Men Detained in North Vietnam.

*b2c*  
 E012812-2  
 Mrs. [REDACTED] said that in early July, 1970, she had sent a letter to her husband through the Committee of Liaison With Families of Service Men Detained in North Vietnam. She pointed out that she continually attempts to correspond with her husband by sending a number of letters through various channels, in the hopes that one of them will reach her husband. She explained by saying she has sent several letters through various sources in the American Red Cross both in the United States and South East Asian Countries. She said that her letter in early July, 1970, sent through the Committee of Liaison With Families of Service Men Detained in North Vietnam was the first one she had sent through that committee, and she has received no response.

*b2c*  
 Mrs. [REDACTED] said that she did not know the names of anyone who had received correspondence from the Committee of Liaison With Families of Service Men Detained in North Vietnam,

On 7/10/70 at [REDACTED] Fla. File # Tampa 97-59

by SA [REDACTED]

*b2c*  
 Date dictated 7/10/70

TP 97-59

2

but indicated that if anyone knew the identities of persons  
having received such correspondence that it would be Mrs.  
[REDACTED] Florida.

E012812-2 b7c



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date July 27, 1970

1

*b2c*  
 Mrs. [REDACTED]  
 Florida, furnished the following voluntary information:

*b2c*  
 Her husband, [REDACTED] is a pilot in the United States Air Force, and was declared missing in action in North Vietnam three years ago. She had received absolutely no information about him, and in December, 1969, one of her friends who also has a husband missing in North Vietnam, told her she may be able to contact her husband by writing to ETHEL TAYLOR, 1505 Ashford Way, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19151. Mrs. [REDACTED] does *b2c* not recall who gave her TAYLOR's address, as she frequently talks with several other women who have husbands missing.

*b2c*  
 She sent a letter to ETHEL TAYLOR, and received a reply within a few days. This reply indicated that some kind of liaison group was being organized for the purpose of establishing a line of communication between North Vietnamese prisoners and their families in the U.S. The letter indicated the group would be dependant upon donations and contributions for financial backing. Mrs. [REDACTED] subsequently received a letter from the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained In North Vietnam (COLIFAM). The first letter she received was an Information Sheet, setting forth the aims and purposes of COLIFAM. She has since received other letters from COLIFAM headquarters at 365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y.

*b2c*  
 Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that in her first inquiry of COLIFAM regarding her husband, she was advised that they had received no communications from Mr. [REDACTED] *b2c*  
 Mrs. [REDACTED] then directed a letter to her husband, through COLIFAM group, which letter was apparently received by her husband, as she received a letter from him about 2½ weeks ago. His letter was only about six (6) lines long, and was very general in content; however, she feels certain it was his handwriting and wording in the letter. His letter was among other letters and propaganda

On 7/22/70 at [REDACTED] Florida File # TP 97-39

by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 7/24/70

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which was brought to Canada by the wife of JERRY RUBIN about three (3) weeks ago, which incident caused a great deal of publicity and press comment.

Mrs. [REDACTED] <sup>b7c</sup> has never received any type of Communist propaganda or any direct solicitation of funds from COLIFAM or any other organization as a result of her contact with COLIFAM. She said at first, she was extremely hostile and opposed to having any more contact with COLIFAM; however, since she knows of no other avenue of communication with her husband, she feels she will use of COLIFAM. She said she will absolutely not donate or contribute any money or other valuables to COLIFAM, as she feels COLIFAM is either an arm of, or a tool of the Communists. She repeatedly stated that even knowing this, she feels using this group to communicate with her husband is the only way she has to contact him, and it is better than not having any contact with him.

ED 12812-2

Mrs. [REDACTED] <sup>b7c</sup> has never met any of the organizers or committeemen of COLIFAM. She has talked to other women who have called COLIFAM headquarters in New York, and they apparently have some type of filing system handy to the switchboard on all persons using COLIFAM, since whenever you call in, they have your file immediately available.

Mrs. [REDACTED] <sup>b7c</sup> said she does not know of anyone else in the Sarasota, Florida area who has been in contact with COLIFAM. She said she has heard that [REDACTED] <sup>b7c</sup> Florida has been in contact with COLIFAM, and she feels Mrs. [REDACTED] knows the names of other persons who have corresponded with COLIFAM.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date September 4, 19701

b2c

Mrs. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Florida, advised she is the wife of [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] United States Navy, who is a  
prisoner of war in North Vietnam. She advised she had  
not received any contact from her husband in quite some  
time.

E012812-2

b7c

Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that she had only had limited  
contact with the Committee of Liaison With Families of  
Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam through form letters  
and she had no personal contact with the group.

b7c

Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that she did not feel she  
had any information of value concerning this group. She  
said that she did not in any way, condone this organization,  
but she did not care to make any further statement or  
furnish information in order to preclude possibly jeopardizing  
any future contacts with her husband.

On 9/1/70 at [REDACTED] Florida File # Tampa 97-59

E012812-2

SA [REDACTED]

Date dictated 9/2/70

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO :

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)

DATE: 9/3/70

FROM :

SAC, OMAHA (100-7801) (P)

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP (S) OF  
DATE

SUBJECT:

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES  
OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH  
VIETNAM (COLIFAM)  
IS - MISCELLANEOUS  
REGISTRATION ACT

OO: NEW YORK

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

Re New York airtel dated 6/9/70, Omaha airtel to  
Philadelphia 7/22/70, and Omaha airtel to Indianapolis 7/27/70.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 11 copies of an LHM  
concerning captioned organization. Enclosed for New York  
are three copies of above LHM.

E012812-2 It is noted for the Bureau and New York, that Omaha  
ascertained that the parents of [redacted]  
now reside in Warsaw, Indiana.

The wife of [redacted]  
was believed to be in Philadelphia and leads were set out to  
interview them.

No local dissemination was made of this LHM  
inasmuch as Mrs. [redacted] requested her name to be  
maintained confidential within the Department of Justice and  
she did not wish to testify because of her physical condition.

The LHM is marked "confidential" because of Mrs.  
request.

Numerous efforts have been made to locate and  
interview Mrs. [redacted] wife of [redacted]  
Iowa. She was residing [redacted]  
Iowa, but has moved and is now believed to be back in  
Iowa.

- 2 - Bureau (Enc. 11) (RM)
- 3 - New York (100-168469) (RM) (Enc. 3)
- 2 - Omaha

ENCLOSURE

REC-64  
EX-100

SEP 11 1970

60 SEP 22 1970

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI, SEC. SER.

DATE FORW: 9-15-70

HOW FORW: 4/5

BY: [redacted]

OM 100-7801

LEAD:

OMAHA

Eo 12812-2

AT

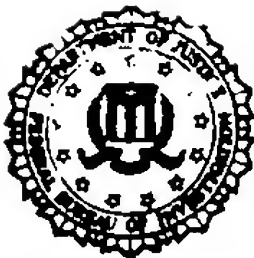
IOWA

Interview Mrs.

to determine if she has been contacted by COLIFAM.

b2c





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Omaha, Nebraska  
September 3, 1970

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

67c  
7-29-93 980  
COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES  
OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH  
VIETNAM (COLIFAM)

On July 20, 1970, Lt. Col. Earl J. Clark, Region Commander, 113th Military Intelligence Group, Omaha, Nebraska, advised he has received no information concerning the captioned organization. Clark advised that [REDACTED] b7c  
Special Agent of the 113th Military Intelligence Group is the father of a prisoner of war and may have some information.

On July 20, 1970, Col. Robert B. Riddle, Office of Special Investigations, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, advised he had no information concerning captioned organization.

E012812-2 On July 20, 1970, Miss [REDACTED] b7c  
"Omaha World-Herald", an Omaha daily newspaper, advised she could locate no information concerning the captioned organization and, therefore, was sure the "Omaha World-Herald" had never printed an article concerning COLIFAM.

On July 22, 1970, [REDACTED]  
Omaha Office of Naval Investigative Service Office, advised he had no knowledge of the captioned organization.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY SLIP  
DATE 12-14-77  
62c

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DECLASSIFIED BY 1259  
ON 9-28-78

62c  
GROUP 1  
Excluded from Automatic  
Downgrading and Declassification

ENCLOSURE

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

b2c

Date July 21, 1970

Mrs. [REDACTED] Iowa, was located at her place of employment in [REDACTED], Iowa, where she was interviewed and furnished the following information: b2c

At the outset of this interview, Mrs. [REDACTED] was advised of the personal and official identity of the interviewing Agent and informed that she was being contacted at the request of the Assistant Attorney General J. WALTER YEAGLEY of the United States Department of Justice, in an attempt to determine if the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) is engaged in activities in violation of United States laws.

Mrs. [REDACTED] b2c advised she was willing to cooperate in every way possible with the FBI and the United States Government in this investigation, so long as her identity was kept strictly confidential. She emphasized she did not wish to furnish any public or private testimony in connection with this matter because of her poor physical and emotional condition.

EO 12812-2

Mrs. [REDACTED] b2c advised she is the mother of Navy [REDACTED] who has been held captive in North Vietnam during the past four years. She said she had not received any word on her son in almost three years until a few days before Christmas, 1969, when she heard a news release that was made by a CORA WEISS in California stating she had recently returned from North Vietnam and had brought back letters from United States prisoners of war (POW) which would be forwarded to the POW's families in the United States in the very near future.

Mrs. [REDACTED] b7c said she subsequently received a letter from her son on December 24, 1969, in an envelope bearing an obliterated California postmark and return address of "AFSC 160W 15th St. Phila, Pa." which was written on the back flap of the envelope.

Mrs. [REDACTED] b7c said she next received a two-page piece of correspondence on letterhead stationery bearing caption of "Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in

On 7/17/70 at [REDACTED] Iowa File # OM 100-7680

by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 7/20/70

North Vietnam, 365 West 42nd Street, New York, New York, telephone number 212-765-1490", dated January, 1970, which was entitled "Information Sheet". Mrs. [REDACTED] said this "letter" contained background on the COLIFAM and contained instructions on how to use the COLIFAM to correspond with POWs in North Vietnam, along with a supply of blank forms to be used for sending messages to the POWs, via Moscow, USSR, by the COLIFAM. b2c

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that after consulting with Commander JOHN OLIVER, United States Navy Reserve Center, Des Moines, Iowa, she decided to use the COLIFAM as a means of corresponding with her captured son. b2c

E012812-2

She said in addition to the December letter from her son, which was forwarded to her from California, she received a letter in April and a letter in June from her son via the COLIFAM.

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated she has sent approximately six letters to her son via the COLIFAM and a six-pound gift package in February, April and June, and that her son acknowledged in his June letter that he had received the February package. b2c

Mrs. [REDACTED] noted that the letter she received from her son in April had been forwarded to her by COLIFAM in an envelope postmarked at New York City, New York, under date of April 20, 1970, which envelope also contained a letter on COLIFAM stationery under date of April 20, 1970, which letter appeared to be a form letter advising that Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ, a member of the Committee of Liaison, returned on that date from a two-week trip to Laos and North Vietnam and had brought back the enclosed letter along with 201 other letters from prisons being held in North Vietnam. She noted that this letter was signed by STEVEN E. HALLIWELL. b2c

Mrs. [REDACTED] further noted that under date of May 4, 1970, she received correspondence from COLIFAM which was on COLIFAM letterhead paper and in memorandum form which was from "Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ", to: "The Families of the 335 Presently Confirmed Prisoners Held in North Vietnam", re "Information on Correspondence with Prisoners". b2c

*b7c*  
Mrs. [REDACTED] recalls that this correspondence from Reverend FERNANDEZ indicated he had been on a three-week trip to Laos and North Vietnam and had spoke with officials responsible for communication between captured United States pilots held in detention there and their families in the United States.

*b7c*  
Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that she had received a handwritten note under date of May 15, 1970, on COLIFAM letterhead stationery which appeared to have been written and signed by BARBARA WEBSTER of this committee, which stated that this committee had received her letter for [REDACTED] on April 27, 1970, and sent it on to North Vietnam with a group that had left that week for a visit there. *b7c*

E012812-2

*b7c*  
Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that she has received two additional letters signed by BARBARA WEBSTER of COLIFAM, one under date of June 14, 1970, which opened with "Dear Friend:" and mentioned that this committee was glad to send the enclosed letter from North Vietnam, along with 142 others that was brought to this country by JEAN PALOMBON, NANCY RUBIN, and JUDY CLAVER, (all) "anti-war activists" who spent two weeks in North Vietnam. She said this letter also made mention of the fact that these letters had been delayed because all the material these individuals brought back with them had been confiscated by the Canadian customs authorities upon their arrival in Montreal, Canada.

*b7c*  
Mrs. [REDACTED] said the June 14, 1970, letter further indicated that another group was going to North Vietnam at the end of that month.

*b7c*  
Mrs. [REDACTED] noted that sometime in June, 1970, she had sent three letters to her son [REDACTED] to COLIFAM in New York City, along with a note asking if the letters would count as individual letters or as one as one of the letters was from herself, one was from [REDACTED] girlfriend [REDACTED] and the third from his brother, [REDACTED]. She stated that under date of July 1, 1970, she received a brief typewritten note on COLIFAM letterhead stationwry and signed by BARBARA WEBSTER *b7c*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



which noted that normally they would probably have returned two of the letters addressed to [REDACTED] because it was important for families to follow the North Vietnamese request that only one letter be sent per month. She said WEBSTER noted, however, that the group that had planned to go to North Vietnam about the end of June had been postponed until August or September and therefore the letters would count as for the June, July, and August letters for [REDACTED] b2c

EO 12812-2

Mrs. [REDACTED] noted that she has kept all correspondence received from the above-mentioned committee and has copied all of her son's letters and sent copies to the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. She further noted that she would make a Xerox copy of all correspondence received from COLIFAM and would make these copies available to the interviewing Agent on or about July 20, 1970. b2c

Mrs. [REDACTED] noted that her son [REDACTED] addresses his letters to herself and his girlfriend, [REDACTED] of Boone, Iowa, and her eldest son, [REDACTED] of Des Moines, Iowa. She noted, however, that neither [REDACTED] nor [REDACTED] have received any correspondence from COLIFAM. b2c

Mrs. [REDACTED] emphasized she has had no personal contact either in person or by telephone from any individual connected with COLIFAM and further noted that she abhors any publicity relating to her son being held a prisoner in North Vietnam, and observed she feels this is strictly a personal matter and believes it is wrong for families of POWs to use their loved ones as a publicity gimmick. She further noted that local Des Moines news media, particularly the Des Moines "Register - Tribune", a daily metropolitan newspaper, have approached her on numerous occasions in an attempt to interview her regarding her son's status as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam. She has refused to make any press release concerning her son's situation. b2c

She further noted she was suspicious of COLIFAM from the very beginning as she felt it might be some "gimmick" on the part of the Communist Party but stated that after much soul searching she decided to use its services as she so desperately wanted to correspond with her son.



OM 100-7680

5

EO 12812-2

b2c

Mrs. [REDACTED] said she has not had any contact with any other families of servicemen who are being held prisoner in North Vietnam as she felt that to do so might result in publicity as she recalls reading several press releases in the Des Moines, Iowa, area regarding at least eight or nine other families from the State of Iowa who have sons that are being held in North Vietnam. She stated she does not know the identities of these families.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

*b2c* Date July 21, 1970

1 Mrs. [REDACTED]  
Iowa, made available the attached Xerox copies of correspondence she has received from the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, 365 West 42nd Street, New York, New York.

*b2c*  
Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that she will maintain the original copies of this correspondence in a safe and secure place and is willing to furnish the original to the United States Government in the event it is needed so long as it does not necessitate her appearing in a court of law or which would result in publicity with respect to herself or her son, [REDACTED] who is being held a prisoner of war in North Vietnam.  
*b7c*

On 7/20/70 at [REDACTED] Iowa File # OM 100-7680

*EO12812-2*  
by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 7/20/70

ON 100-7680  
2

**NGƯỜI GỬI (Addressor)**

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

SỐ LĨNH (Service number):

NGÀY VÀ NƠI SINH (Date & place of birth):

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

TRẠI GIAM PHI CÔNG MỸ BỊ BẮT TẠI  
NƯỚC VIỆT - NAM DÂN CHỦ CỘNG HÒA  
VIA MOSCOW, USSR (Camp of detention for U.S. pilots captured  
in the DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC of VIETNAM)

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON  
with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

**GỬI (Addressee)**

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

OM 100-7680  
3

[illegible]

**CHI CHÚ (N.B.)**

1. Phải viết rõ và chỉ được viết trên những dòng kẻ sẵn (*Write legibly and only on the lines*).
2. Trong thư chỉ được nói về tình hình sức khỏe và tình hình gia đình (*Write only about health and family*).
3. Gia đình gửi đến cũng phải theo đúng mẫu, khuôn khổ và quy định này (*Letters from families should also conform to this proforma*).

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

OM 100-7680

4

Admstr

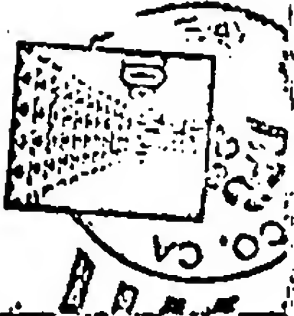
Mrs.



L7C

EO12812-2

down



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



named [redacted] - L2c  
letter from [redacted]  
Dec 24 1969 E012812-2

AF-SC 160 N15-55  
photo re

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

OM 100-  
6

# COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

*with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam*

365 West 42nd Street New York N.Y. 10036

212-765-1490

January, 1970

## INFORMATION SHEET

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee (in formation):  
• Rennie Davis  
• Rev. Richard Fernandez  
• Maggie Geddes  
• Steve Halliwell  
• Stewart Meacham  
• Prof. Ben Seitzman  
• Ethel Taylor  
• Barbara Webster  
• Trudi Young  
• Staff

### Background

In the course of the Vietnam war, links have been built between the people of Vietnam and Americans who oppose the war through numerous meetings and conferences. These meetings have taken place in Europe, Canada, Cuba and Southeast Asia and have included people from both the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam) and the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam (now part of the Provisional Revolutionary Government).

In these meetings the Vietnamese have always stressed a distinction between the U.S. government, whom they hold responsible for the policy of war, and the U.S. people, whom they believe still value the goals upon which this country was founded--independence, justice, freedom and equality. This same distinction is evident to those Americans who have visited North Vietnam and found that even though the nation is armed to defend itself, the people are encouraged by their government to believe that the American people are basically decent and humane.

It is therefore understandable that the Vietnamese should indicate their basic confidence in the American people through the peace movement which they believe embodies American ideals, rather than the government. And in the past, the Vietnamese have asked the peace movement to receive U.S. servicemen--primarily pilots whose planes were shot down--when the North Vietnamese government has decided to release them. On three separate occasions--February 1968, July 1968 and July 1969--the peace movement has gone to Hanoi and returned with released servicemen; on one occasion an American peace activist went to Phnom Penh, Cambodia to receive three released NLF captives.

In addition, Americans visiting Hanoi have frequently carried letters there at the request of families, and have brought back letters from servicemen. There have also been occasions when American peace activists have met prisoners and talked with them.

### Functions of the Committee

A Committee of Liaison has now been established as an extension of these past efforts at the request of the North Vietnamese. As on past occasions, the peace movement is responding to a request by the Vietnamese to meet a specific, immediate need and is not in any sense representing the government of North Vietnam.

The Committee will seek to facilitate communication between families in the U.S. and servicemen now imprisoned in North Vietnam. Basically, the Committee will receive letters from servicemen and forward them through the domestic mails, thereby decreasing, we hope, past problems in the receipt of such mail. We will also forward letters to North Vietnam at the request of relatives. Families are of course still free to send letters and parcels directly but should note that the instructions on mailing previously issued by the State Department are wrong. The correct address is:

name of serviceman  
serial number  
Camp of Detention of U.S. Pilots  
Captured in the D.R.V.  
Hanoi, Democratic Republic of Vietnam

Via Moscow, U.S.S.R.

In addition, it is possible that the Vietnamese will be able to verify

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

## INFORMATION SHEET - page 2

requests for information about servicemen from families who are uncertain if their relatives are being held in North Vietnam. Requests should be submitted to the Committee, but there is no certainty when and if the North Vietnamese will be able to respond. The Committee will of course transmit immediately any information that it receives to the family.

Clarification

Two clarifications are in order: first, it should be noted that the Committee will be dealing solely with the government of North Vietnam and will not have any information on men held in South Vietnam by the Provisional Revolutionary Government. Nor will we be able to provide information at this time concerning men held in Laos or any other Southeast Asian country where U.S. troops and aircraft are presently involved in combat missions.

Secondly, the Committee will function entirely apart from the U.S. government. The U.S. government has frequently made it more difficult for the Vietnamese to be open to the concerns of American families by using the families' genuine desires as a propaganda ploy. The government has further attempted to provoke an angry response from the Vietnamese by publicizing unsubstantiated and inflammatory testimony from fliers already released: apparently, the government has decided to jeopardize existing communications and the possibility of future releases for the sake of propaganda aimed at prolonging the war. The North Vietnamese are also very aware that the U.S. government's claims of humanitarian concerns are contradicted by the well-documented policy of torture and brutality practiced on prisoners taken in the South by U.S. and Saigon troops.

In addition to all these factors, there is the simple fact that the resolution of the fate of all the servicemen now held in North Vietnam waits ultimately upon a U.S. decision to end the war and withdraw all its forces and materiel.

Who We Are

We firmly believe that the safe return of these men and the half million others that the U.S. maintains in South Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and aboard naval vessels--who can also be viewed as prisoners, prisoners of their own government since many have been sent to fight in a war against the dictates of their own conscience--can only come with a decision on the part of the U.S. government to withdraw from Vietnam. Because of this conviction, we who are serving on this Committee will continue our efforts to create popular pressure strong enough to force the government to withdraw.

We are active in a variety of organizations committed to ending the war: American Friends Service Committee, the New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, Clergy and Laymen Concerned about Vietnam, Women Strike for Peace, The Conspiracy, and Women Against Daddy Warbucks. The Committee is supported by donations from individuals and organizations, and welcomes any gifts to sustain its work.

CONFIDENTIAL

## COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

April 20, 1970

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora WeissTreasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee

- Richard J. Barnett
- Rennie Davis
- Madeline Duckles
- Prof. Richard Folk
- Rev. Richard Fernandez
- Norman Fruchter
- \*Maggie Geddes
- Steve Helliwell
- Prof. Donald Kalish
- Stewart Meecham
- Prof. Bea Seitzman
- Prof. Franz Schurmann
- Ethel Taylor
- \*Barbara Webster
- Trudi Young

\*staff

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

Rev. Richard Fernandez, a member of the Committee of Liaison, returned today from a two-week trip to Laos and North Vietnam. He brought back the enclosed letter along with 201 others from prisoners being held in North Vietnam.

While there, Rev. Fernandez held a lengthy interview with three pilots, Cdr. Robert Schweitzer, Cdr. Walter Wilber and Lt. Col. Edison Miller. He also was advised by North Vietnamese authorities that families should write letters monthly on the enclosed air-letter forms. We are therefore sending several to you at this time and will send more with subsequent mail.

We are of course very pleased to be able to forward this letter to you.

Sincerely yours,

*Steven E. Helliwell*  
Steven E. Helliwell

*Letter received apr 22  
sent on to DC apr. 26*

OM 100-7680

9

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON  
365 West 42nd Street  
New York, N.Y. 10036

*AMR*

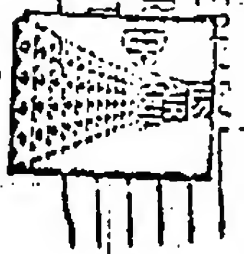
*b7c*

*E112812-7*



*sent one wk of Apr.  
sent 2nd letter  
May 11*

150TH ANNIVE  
ON-CAMPUS  
ARMY ROT





## COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

*with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam*

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

May 4, 1970

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Core Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee  
Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Modeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Ben Scitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

From: Rev. Richard Fernandez  
To: The families of the 335 presently confirmed  
prisoners held in North Vietnam  
Re: Information on correspondence with prisoners

On April 20th I returned from a three-week trip to Laos and North Vietnam. In North Vietnam I spoke with officials responsible for communication between pilots held in detention there and their families here. The following information was emphasized to me by the North Vietnamese authorities and we are anxious to make sure that you are aware of it:

- 1) The Vietnamese recommend that families use the air-letter form (enclosed) for correspondence.
- 2) Communication to pilots should be limited to matters of family and health.
- 3) Pilots are allowed to receive one letter per month and one package every other month (not over six pounds in weight).

Detention Camp authorities have said that they do not wish to receive several letters and/or packages per month for a given pilot from different members of the same family. Families should make arrangements for alternating letters each month if different members

want to write.

The North Vietnamese authorities indicated that, from this point forward, they will not feel responsible for forwarding letters and packages that do not adhere to the above.

If the letter form is mailed directly it can go in another envelope but the mail route, "via Moscow, U.S.S.R.," should definitely be included in the address. If letters are sent to the Committee of Liaison for forwarding please enclose but do not affix stamps as we send letters on in packets. The Committee cannot forward packages for families.

While I was in Hanoi, Prof. Douglas Dowl of Cornell University and I met with three pilots: Cdr. Robert Schweitzer of Lemoore, California; Cdr. Walter Wilbur of Virginia Beach and Lt. Col. Edison Miller of Santa Ana, California. The three men were in good health, and said they had daily exercise and reading material. The three pilots advised us that they had been getting letters and packages from their

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Richard Fernandez memo - page 2

families, and asked that packages include toilet articles and canned foods. In particular they mentioned soap, shaving cream (no razors or blades), toothpaste, powdered milk and cream, instant coffee and non-melting candy. They said they do not need clothes.

Also, in my discussions with the Vietnam Committee of Solidarity with the American People, the Committee of Liaison's contact in North Vietnam, we confirmed that since December over 800 letters have been sent from Hanoi through the Committee of Liaison. Of those, 156 letters are still on their way from Hanoi to families here.

We hope that this information clarifies some aspects of correspondence for you. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

12  
**COMMITTEE OF LIAISON,**

**with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam**

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

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Eithel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

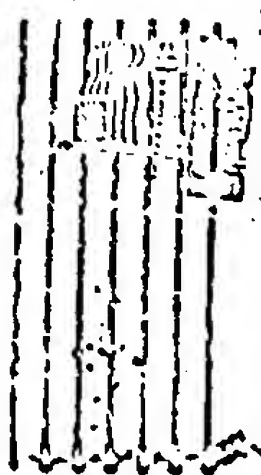
\*staff

May 15  
Dear Mrs. [REDACTED] b2c  
Just wanted to let you  
know that we received your  
letter for [REDACTED] b2c 4/27 and  
sent it on to North Vietnam  
with a group that left this  
week for a visit there.

E012812-2

Sincerely,  
Barbara Webster

100-7680  
13



E012812-2

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON  
365 West 42nd Street  
New York, N.Y. 10036

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

**COMMITTEE OF LIAISON**

**with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam**

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

June 14, 1970

**Committee**

Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Gaddes  
Steve Holliswell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

Dear friend:

We are very glad to send you the enclosed letter from North Vietnam. It, along with 142 others, was brought to this country by Jean Palomdon, Nancy Rubin and Judy Claver -- anti-war activists who spent two weeks in North Vietnam.

The letters were slightly delayed in getting here because all the material they brought back with them, including the letters, was confiscated by the Canadian Customs upon their arrival in Montreal. This was totally unexpected and unprecedented; but they generated enough pressure so that everything was returned to them.

There will be another group going to North Vietnam at the end of this month. If you would like them to take a letter from you, please send it to us in the next week or so.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Webster*  
Barbara Webster



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON  
365 West 42nd Street  
New York, N.Y. 10036

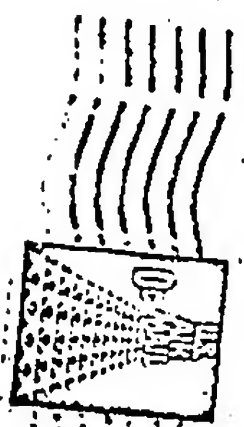
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15

*ALR*



*620*  
*E012812-2*



**COMMITTEE OF LIAISON**

*with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam*

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

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Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

62c July 1, 1970

62c E012812-2

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]

Normally we probably would have returned two of the letters addressed to your son because we think it is important for families to follow the North Vietnamese' request that only one letter be sent per month. However, the group that was going to go to North Vietnam about now is being postponed until August or September. So we will send all three of your letters and figure they will be counted as the June, July and August letters. If that's not OK with you, please write us.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Webster*  
Barbara Webster

ON 100-7650  
17

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**AFTER 5 DAYS RETURN TO**

**NEW YORK**  
JUL 8 PM  
1970

**50TH ANNIV**  
1920-1970

**VIA AIR MAIL**

*EO 12812-2*

*b2c*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

b2c Date August 4, 1970

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] who resides at [REDACTED]  
Iowa, furnished the following information:

[REDACTED] b2c said his son, [REDACTED] b2c  
enlisted in the U. S. Navy in 1963, subsequently graduated  
as a fighter pilot, and was assigned to the Viet Nam Theater  
of operations. On May [REDACTED] 1967, his son was shot down over  
Hanoi, North Vietnam and taken prisoner. He was informed of  
this by the U. S. Navy on May 21, 1967.

Continuing, [REDACTED] b2c said he and his wife, [REDACTED] b2c  
received a letter from their son in November 1967, sent to  
them by CAROL McELDOWNEY, 11116 Greenview, Cleveland, Ohio,  
who had shortly before returned from a trip to Hanoi, North  
Vietnam, as a representative of some peace group or another.

In December 1967, they received another letter  
from their son, mailed directly from North Vietnam, bearing a  
North Vietnam stamp.

E012812-2 In April 1968, they received a letter from their  
son, written in February 1968, by way of an anonymous party,  
postmark unrecalled.

In July or August 1968, they got another letter  
written in July of that year, which letter was brought back  
by one Dr. JOSEPH ELDER, a representative of the American  
Friends Service Committee, Inc., 160 North 15th Street,  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

In October 1968, another letter was received, written  
in September of that year, which letter was forwarded to them  
by M. F. DO NASCIMENTO BRITO, Rio De Janerio, Brazil, a  
newspaper reporter who had apparently been visiting in the  
Hanoi area. Neither [REDACTED] b2c nor his wife had any prior contact  
with this individual.

24

On 7/23/70 at [REDACTED] Iowa File # OM 100-7801

by SA [REDACTED] b2c Date dictated 7/29/70

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

OM 100-7801

2

The next letter from their son came via direct mail, written by him January 31, 1969, and received in June 1969, from North Vietnam via East Germany.

The next letter, written March 25, 1970, was received in April 1970, from CORA WEISS, representing the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM), as was the last letter from their son to date, received in May 1970.

EO 12812-2  
b7c

[REDACTED] said that after being informed of their son's capture, they were instructed by the U. S. Navy how to correspond with their son, form to use and other such instructions. He said he and his wife invariably followed these instructions, and they also advised the Navy of the receipt of each letter from their son with as much background information as possible as to how it came. They sent the Navy copies of all correspondence [REDACTED] and his wife ever received and maintained a close liaison with liaison authorities in the Navy Department in connection with each contact.

[REDACTED] made available copies of five pieces of correspondence: two letters from COLIFAM, two letters from the U. S. Navy and one letter from the American Friends Service Committee, Inc.

EO 12812-2  
b7c

[REDACTED] said he and his wife have been averaging about one letter per month to their son, each mailed on the form letter furnished under the instructions of the U. S. Navy. He said they did send one letter to their son in March 1970 through COLIFAM organization, which letter was mailed to CORA WEISS, COLIFAM, 365 West 42nd Street, New York, New York. They knew this letter was received by their son inasmuch as he referred to a specific school reunion in a subsequent letter in answer to a remark made in the letter handled by COLIFAM.

[REDACTED] said he and his wife would not hesitate to make available to the proper authorities in connection with this investigation, any or all of the correspondence involved since their son has been a prisoner.

EO 12812-2  
b7c

[REDACTED] said they are declining to testify at this time in this matter, particularly in view of Mr. [REDACTED] position as a Military Intelligence Agent, but might consider doing so following their son's release and return to the United States.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



b7c

[REDACTED] then furnished Xerox copies of the following attached:

1. Department of Navy letter dated January 7, 1970;
2. Department of Navy letter dated January 21, 1970;
3. Letter dated January 20, 1970, signed by ROGER G. FREDRICKSON for the American Friends Service Committee, Inc., 160 North 15th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania;
4. Letter dated May 4, 1970, unsigned, from COLIFAM, New York, New York;
5. Letter dated May 11, 1970, signed by CORA WEISS, representing COLIFAM.

EO 12812-2

[REDACTED] b7c said that other than the above, neither he nor his wife has had any contact with representatives of COLIFAM.

CONFIDENTIAL



100-7801

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20370

IN REPLY REFER TO

Pers-Ga-jw

7 JAN 1970

Dear Navy Wives and Parents:

Considerable publicity has been associated with the visit of Mrs. Cora Weiss and three of her companions from the Women's Strike for Peace group to North Vietnam. I would like to take this opportunity to bring you up to date on the facts as we presently know them.

Mrs. Weiss and her group took to North Vietnam approximately 150 letters from next of kin which were intended for delivery to our captured/missing personnel. After delivering this mail to North Vietnamese authorities, Mrs. Weiss states she was informed that the individuals to whom five pieces of mail were addressed had died in their parachutes or as a result of injuries. There were two Navy personnel reportedly listed in this group of five and the appropriate next of kin have been notified. This information is unverified and its reliability is not known. Therefore, we anticipate no status change in these two cases on the basis of the presently available information.

When Mrs. Weiss and her companions returned to the United States, they reportedly brought back with them 138 letters written to the next of kin of approximately 132 prisoners. Of these 132 reported letter writers, 55 are Navy personnel. All 55 are presently carried in a prisoner of war status. Although no letters were received through Mrs. Weiss from Navy personnel who are presently carried in a missing in action status, it is encouraging to note that approximately twenty Navy personnel were allowed to correspond for the first time. With this rather large increase in correspondence I request your patience and understanding for what will probably be a somewhat longer time span for processing those letters which you have so kindly forwarded to us. We consider this a vital program and appreciate your continued cooperation.

Mrs. Weiss indicated in a press conference which she held on 23 December that the North Vietnamese mailing policy will be less restrictive in the future, providing for one letter per month and one package every other month. Although this figure is still well below that required by the Geneva Conventions, it does constitute an improvement over the previous policy.

In view of the above, we presently anticipate a package mailing program to North Vietnam in February. Detailed instructions will be promulgated at a later date but you can anticipate that they will be very similar to those utilized at Christmas time. For your information I am

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
Pers-Ga-jw

enclosing a copy of the significant portions of a series of instructions for mailing packages which were included with many of the letters received from North Vietnam last month. You will note that they are generally in consonance with those suggestions which I furnished in my letter of 13 October 1969. Please note, however, that cigarettes are specifically forbidden in the North Vietnamese instructions.

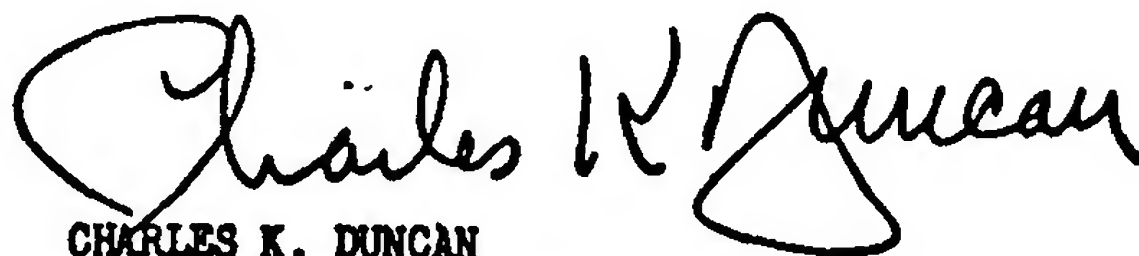
Mail should continue to be sent to the addresses previously provided. There has been some publicity that the phrase "Via Moscow" must be included under the mailing address, but our postal authorities indicate that this is unnecessary. Address the letters as you have previously and the postal department will take care of routing procedures.

For your information, eight Navy personnel broadcast Christmas messages over Radio Hanoi. The appropriate next of kin have been provided a copy. Tape recordings of the broadcast will be forwarded to the next of kin as soon as they are available.

North Vietnamese officials in Paris recently indicated again that the full list of names of American prisoners would eventually be communicated to their families, but not through official government channels. In line with this policy they said that the list of 132 names brought back from Hanoi by Mrs. Weiss and another list of names released earlier in the United States by another American peace group (presumably referring to Mr. David Dellinger), were "official".

As I indicated in my letter of 31 October, we do not endorse these procedures, but will do nothing to impede the flow of information as this would only deny to you important news concerning your loved ones. Since it appears that the North Vietnamese will continue to utilize these indirect methods, I again request your assistance in keeping us advised of any information you receive which may not have been made available to us. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



CHARLES K. DUNCAN  
Vice Admiral, USN  
Chief of Naval Personnel

\*\*\*

EXTRACT FROM NORTH VIETNAMESE PACKAGE INSTRUCTIONS

In order to help packages arrive fast and in perfect condition - no breakage or spoiling due to transportation or weather, you should follow these procedures:

1. Everyone is allowed to receive only one package not exceeding 3 Kg. (approximately 6 lbs. 6 ozs.).
2. Following items are allowed: Dried food stuff, tonics in pill, tablets or capsules, tobacco together with pipes (no cigarettes). Personal articles: Soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, handkerchiefs, wash towels, underwear, scarf, pullovers, gloves and socks.
3. Food and medicine stuffs must be packed in hermetic and solid containers. Tonics must be packed in original containers from manufacturers. Attention: above procedures should be strictly followed otherwise package will not reach.



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20370

IN REPLY REFER TO

Pers-Ga-jw  
21 Jan 1970

Dear Navy Wives and Parents:

In the absence of Vice Admiral Duncan, I am taking this opportunity to pass on information which I feel will be of interest to you. On Thursday, 15 January 1970, Mrs. Cora Weiss and other anti-war leaders, including David Dellinger and Ronald Davis, held a press conference in Chicago. At this meeting they announced that a number of letters from American prisoners in North Vietnam were being forwarded to them and that the letters would be mailed to the next of kin as soon as they were received. Subsequent information indicates that the letters were placed in the United States postal system on Saturday, 17 January 1970.

The list of letter writers provided at the press conference included the names of twenty-two Naval officers, all of whom are presently carried in a prisoner of war status. Five of the twenty-two Navy officers are new writers, and the primary next of kin of these people have been advised. The names of all the letter writers were transmitted to the various military commands by Naval message to allow CACO's to notify next of kin.

A lengthier list of names also provided at the press conference was purported to be a partial listing of American personnel presently held by the North Vietnamese. It was stressed that the list was not complete or comprehensive. Rather, with a few exceptions, it appeared to be a compilation of earlier lists provided by Mrs. Weiss and David Dellinger. All the Navy personnel appearing on this list are presently carried in a POW status. For the information of next of kin, the Navy names appearing on this list are enclosed.

The formation of a new group called the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam was also announced. Mrs. Weiss and David Dellinger were reported to be co-chairmen of the committee. The former indicated that Hanoi had agreed to send mail from American prisoners of war to the committee and that the committee would then forward the letters to the persons to whom addressed. She also said that the North Vietnamese had agreed to "reply to the extent possible" to inquiries from families seeking to determine whether their relatives are prisoners. The address given for the committee office is 365 West 42nd Street, New York, N. Y., 10017. It is suggested that mail to captured and missing personnel continue to be addressed as indicated in the MIA/POW Family Information brochure since those directions remain applicable.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



Pers-Ga-jw


Vice Admiral Duncan's letters of 31 October 1969 and 7 January 1970 have made clear our position concerning committees and organizations such as the one described above. The action of the North Vietnamese in dealing through such groups, rather than at an official government level, is an obvious propaganda ploy designed to promote the credibility of those who oppose the United States position in Vietnam. Such actions perpetrated at your expense on such an obviously humanitarian issue, speaks poorly of those involved, both North Vietnamese and Americans. However, as previously indicated, we will take no action which might impede the flow of information concerning your loved ones. We merely request your assistance in keeping us advised of any developments or information which may not have been made available to us.

The broadcast by Radio Moscow of statements attributed to United States prisoners of war in North Vietnam on 19 January provided no new information. The messages were re-broadcasts of earlier holiday greetings which were first monitored over Radio Hanoi in December 1969 and subsequently over Radio Havana.

On 1 December 1969, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 9485, a bill designed to remove the \$10,000 limit on deposits to the Uniformed Service Savings Deposit Program for captured or missing personnel. The bill is now awaiting Senate action. H.R. 9487, a bill to exclude from gross income for tax purposes the entire amount of compensation of members of the Armed Forces who are captured or missing during the Vietnam conflict, is still awaiting action in the House of Representatives.

We will continue to keep you informed of any developments concerning our captured and missing personnel. Please advise us of any assistance we may be able to provide.

Sincerely,

  
D. H. QUINN  
Acting Chief of Naval Personnel

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Navy names provided at the 15 January 1970 press conference purported to be a partial list of American personnel held by North Vietnam

Alvarez, Everett  
Anderson, Gareth  
Bell, James  
Black, Cole  
Butler, Philip  
Carey, David  
Carpenter, Allan  
Clower, Claude  
Coffee, Gerald  
Daigle, Glenn  
Davis, Edward  
Denton, Jeremiah  
Doremus, Robert  
Doss, Dale  
Fant, Robert  
Galanti, Paul  
Gartley, Markham  
Glenn, Danny  
Haines, Collins  
Hardman, William  
Hutton, James  
Key, Wilson  
Lewis, Earl  
Mayhew, William  
McCain, John  
McSwain, George  
Mecleary, Read  
Metzner, William  
Miller, Edwin  
Mobley, Joseph

Mullen, Richard  
Mulligan, James  
Naughton, Robert  
Norrington, Giles  
Osborne, Dale  
Plumb, Joseph  
Ratzlaff, Richard  
Rice, Charles  
Rivers, Wendall  
Rollins, David  
Russell, Kay  
Schoeffel, Peter  
Schulz, Paul  
Schweitzer, Robert  
Shumaker, Robert  
Shuman, Edwin  
Spencer, Larry  
Stackhouse, Charles  
Stafford, Hugh  
Stier, Theodore  
Stockdale, James  
Stratton, Richard  
Tangeman, Richard  
Tanner, Charles  
Terry, Ross  
Tschudy, William  
Vohden, Raymond  
Wilber, Walter  
Williams, Lewis  
Woods, Robert

Enclosure 1

HENRY DEERITS  
ChairmanHENRY J. CADBURY  
Honorary ChairmanBRONSON P. CLARK  
Executive Secretary

January 20, 1970

OM 100-7801  
10

Dear Friend,

I am happy to report that during my visit to North Vietnam between December 26, 1969, and January 9, 1970, I was able to deliver to the representatives of the Vietmy (Viet Nam Committee for Solidarity with American People) about 500 letters that had been forwarded on to me by you and other family members of prisoners of war in North Vietnam.

Immediately prior to my departure from North Vietnam I was given 69 letters from 64 American prisoners of war, and in keeping with the North Vietnamese request these letters have been given to the

Committee of Liaison  
with Families of Service  
men detained in North  
Vietnam  
365 W. 42nd Street  
New York, New York

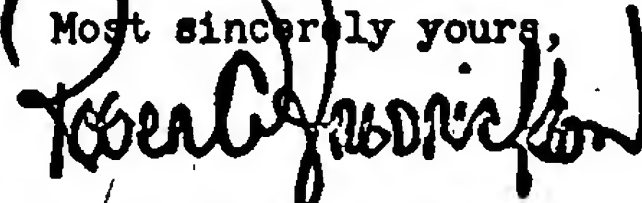
for transmittal to the individual addressees. We at the American Friends Service Committee are pleased to have had a part in opening a channel for communication between the prisoners and their families and hope that this will continue.

You may be interested to know that during my visit to North Vietnam I was able to deliver a second contribution of open heart surgical equipment to the Benh Vien Viet-Duc Hospital in Hanoi in keeping with a long-standing Quaker concern for civilian sufferers on both sides of a war.

Following my departure from North Vietnam I traveled on to Quang Nam in South Vietnam to visit the American Friends Service Committee (Quaker) rehabilitation project for civilian casualties.

I have asked my colleagues in Philadelphia to mail this letter to you prior to my return to the United States, so that you might know more promptly that your letter has safely arrived in Hanoi and was given to the appropriate North Vietnamese authorities with my specific request that it be delivered to the individual addressee.

Most sincerely yours,

for: Louis W. Schneider  
Roger G. Fredrickson

RF/h

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

**with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam**

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

May 4, 1970

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Core Weiss

Treasurer:  
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Committee  
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Prof. Franz Schermann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

From: Rev. Richard Fernandez  
To: The families of the 335 presently confirmed  
prisoners held in North Vietnam  
Re: Information on correspondence with prisoners

On April 20th I returned from a three-week trip to Laos and North Vietnam. In North Vietnam I spoke with officials responsible for communication between pilots held in detention there and their families here. The following information was emphasized to me by the North Vietnamese authorities and we are anxious to make sure that you are aware of it:

- 1) The Vietnamese recommend that families use the air-letter form (enclosed) for correspondence.
- 2) Communication to pilots should be limited to matters of family and health.
- 3) Pilots are allowed to receive one letter per month and one package every other month (not over six pounds in weight).

Detention Camp authorities have said that they do not wish to receive several letters and/or packages per month for a given pilot from different members of the same family. Families should make arrangements for alternating letters each month if different members

want to write.

The North Vietnamese authorities indicated that, from this point forward, they will not feel responsible for forwarding letters and packages that do not adhere to the above.

If the letter form is mailed directly it can go in another envelope but the mail route, "via Moscow, U.S.S.R.," should definitely be included in the address. If letters are sent to the Committee of Liaison for forwarding please enclose but do not affix stamps as we send letters on in packets. The Committee cannot forward packages for families.

While I was in Hanoi, Prof. Douglas Dowd of Cornell University and I met with three pilots: Cdr. Robert Schweitzer of Lemoore, California; Cdr. Walter Wilbur of Virginia Beach and Lt. Col. Edison Miller of Santa Ana, California. The three men were in good health, and said they had daily exercise and reading material. The three pilots advised us that they had been getting letters and packages from their

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Richard Fernandez men - page 2

OM 100-7801

12

families, and asked that packages include toilet articles and canned foods. In particular they mentioned soap, shaving cream (no razors or blades), toothpaste, powdered milk and cream, instant coffee and non-melting candy. They said they do not need clothes.

Also, in my discussions with the Vietnam Committee of Solidarity with the American People, the Committee of Liaison's contact in North Vietnam, we confirmed that since December over 800 letters have been sent from Hanoi through the Committee of Liaison. Of those, 156 letters are still on their way from Hanoi to families here.

We hope that this information clarifies some aspects of correspondence for you. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us.



**with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam**

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

OM 100-7801

13

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(212) 765-1490

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

May 11, 1970

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee  
Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

Dear friend:

A delegation of anti-war activists has just returned from a 10-day trip to Hanoi. Charlotte Bunche-Weeks, Jerry Schwinn, Frank Joyce and Elizabeth Martinez brought 47 letters from prisoners with them and we are very happy to forward yours today.

They also brought out additional suggestions for items which could be included in packages which we thought might be useful to you. Vitamins, minerals and protein are high on the list. Tooth brushes, tooth paste, soap, body powder, foot powder, hard candies, coffee, sweeteners, tobacco, gum, instant breakfast, powdered sweet drinks, instant chocolate drink, tinned ham, peanut butter, cheese spreads, playing cards, travel chess-checkers sets, pipes, pipe cleaners. These are merely suggestions and packages, of course, are not limited to these items.

The arrival of this mail brings the number of letters from prisoners sent out since December to 861.

Sincerely,

*K. Ann Weiss*  
Cora Weiss

36\*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

# 4 COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

*with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam*

365 West 42nd Street New York N.Y. 10036

212-765-1490  
Cable address: COLIAPAM

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

### COMMUNICATION WITH CAPTURED AIRMEN

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

### ESTABLISHED BY NEW COMMITTEE:

### LETTERS EN ROUTE NOW

Committee (in formation):  
Rennie Davis  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Maggie Galdes  
Steve Halliwell  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Ethel Taylor  
Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young  
staff

Chicago, Jan. 15: In an unprecedented move, six anti-war activists announced today the formation of a Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam. The Committee will, according to Mrs. Cora Weiss, a co-chairman of the new group and a housewife from Riverdale, N.Y., "facilitate communication between servicemen held in North Vietnam and their relatives in the United States."

Specifically, "the Committee will receive letters from the captured American pilots," according to Mrs. Weiss, "and immediately forward them to the addressee. Also," she continued, "we will forward inquiries from families in the United States to the North Vietnamese authorities and they will attempt to confirm the status of their missing relatives."

According to Mrs. Weiss, "the North Vietnamese have agreed to send and receive one letter per month between airmen known to be held in North Vietnam and relatives in this country. Letters sent from the U.S.," she continued, "should be addressed to prisoner, serial number, Camp of Detention for U.S. Pilots Captured in the DRV, Hanoi, Democratic Republic of Vietnam, via Moscow, Soviet Union." Packages, Mrs. Weiss added, can be sent every other month and are not to exceed six pounds. Mrs. Weiss noted that the Committee will forward letters for the families to North Vietnam if requested by relatives to do so.

Dave Dellinger, the other co-chairman of the Committee and presently being tried on conspiracy charges in Chicago, outlined the background of previous prisoner releases to the American peace movement and said that "It is understandable that the North Vietnamese indicate their confidence in the American people through the peace movement in this way. We who are on this Committee," he continued, "firmly believe that the safe return of American pilots held in North Vietnam can only come from a decision on the part of the U.S. government to withdraw from Vietnam."

Mr. Dellinger decried the U.S. government for its ignoring the fate of thousands of prisoners in jails in South Vietnam who, with full knowledge and assistance of American personnel, are subjected to grotesque tortures, as has been frequently documented, most authoritatively by Congressman John Conyers and the Rev. Robert Drinan, Dean of Boston College Law School, in a recent survey of South Vietnamese prisons.

Another member of the Committee, Stewart Meacham, Peace Education Secretary of the American Friends Service Committee, said that "Lou Schneider of the AFSC has recently been given a packet of 69 letters in Hanoi from servicemen and those letters will soon arrive from Hong Kong in New York, and will immediately be sent to the addressees." Mr. Meacham said that "the 69 letters en route to the U.S. were written by 64 prisoners and the Committee can presently confirm the names of 182 airmen held by the North Vietnamese, or reported to be dead or unknown." Mr. Meacham emphasized that the list (available upon request) of 182 names was neither final nor comprehensive. He said that "While these names are known to us, there are undoubtedly others known to their families."

## PRESS RELEASE - page 2

Davis, a defendant in the conspiracy trial, the Rev. Richard Fernandez Director of Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam, and Maggie Geddes and Trudi Young, staff members of the Committee.

In December 1969, Mrs. Cora Weiss and two other women, Ethel Taylor of Philadelphia and Madeleine Duckles of San Francisco, all active with Women Strike for Peace, came back from Hanoi with 138 letters from prisoners for Christmas. Mrs. Weiss said at the press conference that she had worked out the details for this Committee during this recent trip. Historically, the development of the Committee is unprecedented in time of war.

Other members of the Committee of Liaison not present at today's press conference include Mrs. Anne Bennett, Prof. Eos Seitzman, Steve Halliwell and Barbara Webster. —The Committee's office is at 365 West 42nd Street, 2nd floor, New York, N.Y.

--- 30 --- 30 --- 30 ---

Note: Since this release, 87 more letters from prisoners have been sent from North Vietnam for forwarding by the Committee.

## Antiwar Group Seen As Liaison To U.S. POWs

NEW YORK (AP) — An office to arrange and facilitate exchange of mail between American servicemen imprisoned in North Vietnam and their families will open here today, a group opposed to the war announced yesterday.

The office carries the name of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, and its organizers are Mrs. Cora Weiss and David Dellinger.

Mrs. Weiss said the organization has had numerous contacts with families of prisoners it hopes to aid. She said 60 letters from 50 servicemen, brought by hand to Hong Kong, were flown to Philadelphia Saturday, then mailed to the families.

She said the North Vietnamese had approved mail arrangements by which families could send one letter and one package of no more than six pounds each month to relatives held prisoner.

Mrs. Weiss, national head of the Women's Strike for Peace and a co-chairman of the New Mobilization to End the War in Vietnam, returned recently from a trip to Hanoi.

Dellinger is one of the seven defendants being tried in Chicago on charges growing out of the disorders during the 1968 Democratic National Convention.

Mrs. Weiss said North Vietnamese officials have agreed to "to the extent possible" to forward letters from families.

The office will be at 355 W. Mrs. Weiss said.

## Foes of War Form Group to Forward Letters to P.O.W.'s

Special to The New York Times

CHICAGO, Jan. 15 — Opponents of the Vietnam war announced today the formation of a committee to "facilitate communication between servicemen held in North Vietnam and their relatives in the United States."

At a news conference here, the founders said the Hanoi Government had agreed to work through the new committee, which is called Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam.

Mrs. Cora Weiss of Riverdale, the Bronx, a housewife who is co-chairman of the committee, said Hanoi had agreed to send all mail from American prisoners of war to the committee,

which will have offices at 365 West 42d Street in New York City. She said the committee would then forward the letters to the prisoners' families.

Mrs. Weiss, who spent two weeks in North Vietnam in December, said the North Vietnamese had also agreed to attempt to answer inquiries from families of missing men and would "attempt to confirm their status."

Mrs. Weiss said this was the first time the North Vietnamese had agreed to answer such inquiries. She said the committee hoped for reasonably prompt responses.

Mrs. Weiss outlined the program and then turned to the families of prisoners.

She said the committee would send a telegram to North Vietnam, "assuming that Western Union will send our telegrams—we've had some trouble with that."

from The New York Times, 1/16/70



F B I

Date: 9/8/70

Transmit the following in

PLAIN TEXT

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)

FROM : SAC, SPRINGFIELD (100-12042) (P)

SUBJECT : COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH  
FAMILIES OF SERVICE MEN DETAINED  
IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)  
IS - MISCELLANEOUS  
REGISTRATION ACT

(OO: NEW YORK)

RE: NY airtel to Bureau dated 6/9/70.  
New York airtel to Bureau dated 7/14/70.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

Enclosed herewith for each the Bureau and New York  
are two copies each of FD-302s reflecting results of interviews  
with [redacted] and Mrs. [redacted] in the  
Springfield Division.

On 8/31/70 Mrs. [redacted]  
[redacted] Illinois, whose son, [redacted]  
has been missing in action since his plane disappeared  
over North Vietnam on [redacted]/67, advised that she is a member  
of the following organization, made up of individuals who have  
relatives, either prisoner of war or missing in action in  
the war in Southeast Asia:

SI-121 REC-89 100-457899-117  
National League of American Prisoners and  
Missing in Action in Southeast Asia,  
No. 1 Constitution Avenue, Northeast,  
Washington, D.C., 2002  
Telephone No. 202-544-8008

SEP 12 1970

3 - Bureau (100-457899) (RM)

2 - Springfield (100-12042) (ADDITIONAL COPIES - PAGE)

(17)

SEP 23 1970





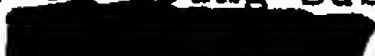
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Special Agent in Charge

SI 100-12042

COPIES - CONTINUED

2 - New York (enc. 4) (RM)  
2 - Chicago (RM)  
2 - Minneapolis (RM)  
2 - Newark (RM)  
2 - Phoenix (RM)  
2 - WFO (RM)

*b2c*  
  
  
  
  
*b2c*  
An LHM, suitable for dissemination, is being submitted by Springfield concerning the interview with 

 requested that in contact with the above listed names, that her identity be concealed as a person who furnished their names.

LEADS

CHICAGO DIVISION

*b2c*  
AT  ILLINOIS: *b2c*

Will interview Mrs.   
as set forth in referenced New York airtel to Bureau, 6/9/70.



SI 100-12042

[REDACTED] DIVISION

AT [REDACTED] MINNESOTA: *b2c*

Will interview Mrs. [REDACTED]  
as set forth in re New York airtel.

[REDACTED] DIVISION *b2c*

AT [REDACTED] NEW JERSEY:

*E012812-2*  
Will interview Mrs. [REDACTED]  
as set forth in referenced New York airtel. *b2c* *b2c*

[REDACTED] DIVISION

AT [REDACTED] ARIZONA: *b2c*

Will interview Mrs. [REDACTED]  
Road, as set forth in referenced airtel.

WFO DIVISION

AT WASHINGTON, D.C.:

Will contact National League of American Prisoners  
and Missing in Action in Southeast Asia, #1 Constitution Avenue,  
Northeast, Washington, D.C. (if not already done) concerning names  
and addresses of individuals who have relatives, either prisoners  
of war or missing in action in the war in Southeast Asia.

## 62c

**Page 19**

4.

South Vietnam

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

7-2993... 9203

**Illinois**

**RECENT WORK SHOWN**

SI 100-12042

[REDACTED]

Date dictated 9/4/70

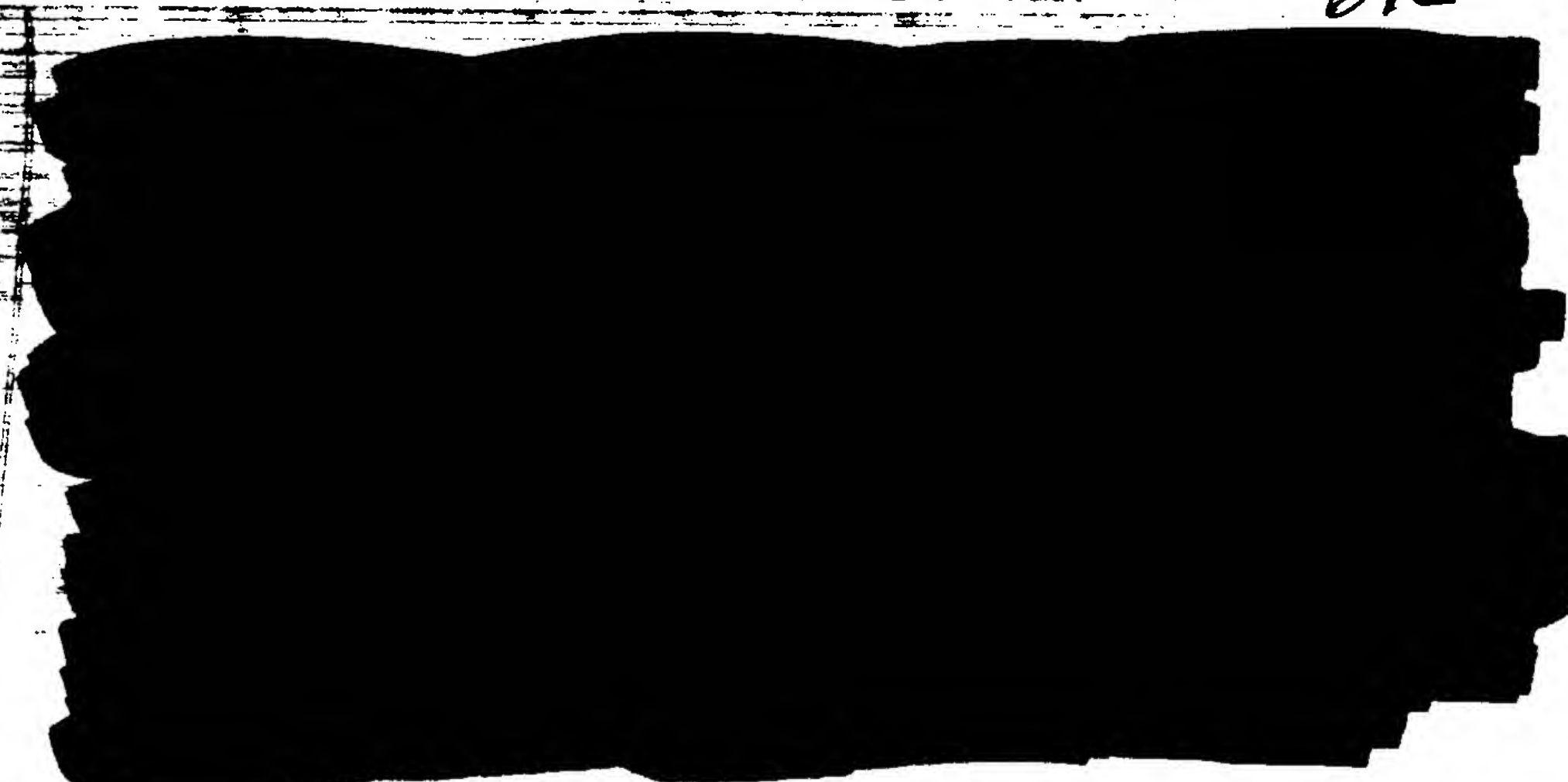
**It and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.**

**ENCLOSURE**

100 - 457859 - 117

SI 100-1-052

67c



E012812-2

She advised that this is the only contact she has had with COLIFAM. She stated that she has not received any letters or mail from COLIFAM and that she has not been harrassed or conjoled by COLIFAM.

67c 211 She advised that her daughter-in-law had been contacted by WILLIAM KUNTSLER who was the attorney for the "Chicago Seven" after Mrs. [REDACTED] She thought this was because her daughter-in-law had sometime in the past contacted KUNTSLER or had been contacted by KUNTSLER. Mrs. [REDACTED] felt KUNTSLER may be connected with COLIFAM.

67c

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date September 4, 1970

✓ b2c  
[REDACTED]  
Illinois. [REDACTED] was interviewed at his place of employment, [REDACTED] Illinois. [REDACTED] advised that his son, [REDACTED] United States Navy, has been missing in action since his plane crashed in North Vietnam on December [REDACTED] 1967.

b2c  
[REDACTED] advised that he has not been contacted in any way by any member of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Service Men Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He stated at that time she had contacted a Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ, who is a member of COLIFAM.

b2c  
He advised that his wife is presently in [REDACTED] Illinois. [REDACTED] He requested that his wife not be interviewed at [REDACTED] but be interviewed after her return to [REDACTED] Illinois.

E012812-2  
b2c  
[REDACTED] advised that his daughter-in-law, Mrs. [REDACTED] who resides at [REDACTED] has had some contact with WILLIAM KUNSLER concerning his son missing in action. He stated, however, that she has been interviewed by the FBI.

b2c  
[REDACTED] advised that neither he nor his wife have been harrassed by COLIFAM and that they have received no mail or personal objects.

b2c  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

On 8/24/70 at [REDACTED] Illinois File # SI 100-12042  
by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 8/31/70

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

ENCLOSURE

100-487119-117



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)

DATE: 9/16/70

FROM: SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (100-7938) (P)

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF  
SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)  
IS - MISC.  
REGISTRATION ACT  
OO: NEW YORK

Re New York airtel and LHM, 6/9/70, and Oklahoma City airtels and LHMs dated 7/1 and 8/13/70.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eleven copies, two copies to Dallas, two copies to New York, of LHM concerning captioned matter.

LEAD:

DALLAS DIVISION

AT DALLAS, TEXAS. If not already done, will locate and interview Mrs. [REDACTED] currently residing at an unknown address in Dallas, pursuant to instructions set out in referenced New York airtel.

E012812-2

AGENCY: G-2, CNI, OSI, SEC. SER., STATE

RAO (ISD, CRO, COT) [REDACTED]

DATE FORW: 9/22/70

HOW FORW: RIS

cc + incl 910-10

- 4 destroyed ENC
- ② - Bureau (Enc. - 11) (RM)
  - 2 - Dallas (Enc. - 2) (RM)
  - 2 - New York (100-168469) (Enc. - 2) (RM)
  - 2 - Oklahoma City

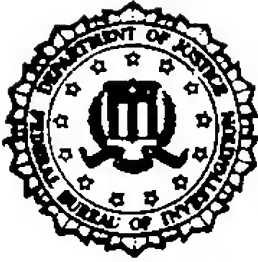


5010-106-01

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE





In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
September 16, 1970

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH  
FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED  
IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)

7-29-93

9803

67c  
E012812-2

This document contains neither recommendations nor  
conclusions of any kind. It is the property of the FBI,  
and is a loan to your agency; it and/or its contents are  
not to be distributed outside your agency.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

8/27/70

b2c  
Date

Mrs. [REDACTED] furnished the following information:

Her husband, [REDACTED] United States Air Force, was captured by the North Vietnamese on January [REDACTED] 1967. Thereafter, she wrote letters to him through the Red Cross, but received no answer and could obtain no information as to whether he was alive or dead. In about September, 1967, RUSSELL JOHNSON, a representative of the American Friends Service Committee visited Tulsa. He had visited Hanoi in January, 1967, and planned another visit in about December, 1969. Mrs. [REDACTED] gave him a letter addressed to her husband and asked him to deliver it in Hanoi. Thereafter, JOHNSON advised her that he had been unable to get to Hanoi and had delivered her letter to the North Vietnamese Ambassador to Cambodia.

She contacted JOHNSON again by letter in November, 1969, and in reply, received a letter from LOUIS W. SCHEIDER, Associate Executive Secretary of the American Friends Service Committee. He stated that he planned to visit North Vietnam in December, 1969, and would be glad to take a letter to her husband. She wrote a letter and sent it to him. He later notified her by letter that he had delivered it to Hanoi.

E012812-2 In about November, 1969, she either read in the paper or saw on television information concerning the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (Colifam). She thereafter wrote a letter to the organization requesting only that an attempt be made to determine if her husband was alive or dead. She received an immediate letter in reply, which was signed by BARBARA WEBSTER. This letter advised that the organization had sent a cable to Hanoi requesting information concerning [REDACTED] and other U. S. servicemen.

About two weeks later, Mrs. [REDACTED] received a telephone call from the New York headquarters of the organization. She believed the caller was BARBARA WEBSTER. The caller advised that information had been received from Hanoi that [REDACTED] was definitely a prisoner of the North Vietnamese.

On 8/17/70 at [REDACTED] Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 100-7038  
by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 8/21/70

62c  
Mrs. [REDACTED] subsequently received a copy of the cable from Hanoi, which listed the names of U. S. prisoners, including the name of her husband. She sent this document to Randolph Air Force Base.

62c  
During the first part of April, 1970, Mrs. [REDACTED] received a letter from the organization which was signed by STEVE HALLIWELL and BARBARA WEBSTER. Enclosed was a letter from [REDACTED] which was dated in December, 1969. This was the first letter she had received from her husband since his capture. Also enclosed was a letter form which the North Vietnamese suggested be used in writing to U. S. prisoners. This form, which was addressed to the Camp of Detention for U. S. pilots captured in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, via Moscow, USSR, also contained the name of the Colifam Organization.

62c  
Mrs. [REDACTED] said she had received similar letter forms from the U. S. Air Force; however, these did not contain the name Colifam or the phrase "via Moscow USSR" in the address.

E012812-2 62c  
Mrs. [REDACTED] immediately wrote a letter to her husband and sent it to the organization to be forwarded to him. She received an immediate reply from the organization acknowledging receipt of her letter.

62c  
About the first week in June, 1970, Mrs. [REDACTED] received a letter from the organization enclosing a second letter from her husband, which was dated in April, 1970. The letter from the organization contained an apology for the delay in delivery, stating that the people who brought the letter out of North Vietnam had been arrested in Canada and their belongings confiscated.

62c  
Mrs. [REDACTED] said all of her dealings with Colifam have been cordial. She was not aware of any statements from the organization as to its sources of information, except as mentioned above that letters from prisoners were carried by individuals entering the United States from Canada. 62c

62c  
She said she was aware that Mrs. [REDACTED] and Mrs. [REDACTED] residing in Tulsa have had dealings with Colifam. The only other individual she could think of who has been in contact with Colifam was Mrs. [REDACTED] currently residing in Dallas, Texas. Mrs. [REDACTED] husband is a prisoner of the North Vietnamese.

b7c

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that a friend [REDACTED] who is employed by [REDACTED] makes frequent business trips to New York City. Some time ago, at her request, he made a visit to Colifam headquarters to observe the operations.

EO12812-2      b7c  
Mrs. [REDACTED] said she would be willing to cooperate should her testimony be needed at a later date.

She stated that she has destroyed some of the correspondence she has received from Colifam; however, she made available copies of two letters, which are attached:

# COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

## with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam.

OC 100-7938  
4

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

### CABLE ADDRESS:

COLIAFAM

May 4, 1970

### Co-chairmen:

Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

### Treasurer:

Mrs. Anne Bennett

### Committee

Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

### \*staff

From: Rev. Richard Fernandez

To: The families of the 335 presently confirmed prisoners held in North Vietnam

Re: Information on correspondence with prisoners

On April 20th I returned from a three-week trip to Laos and North Vietnam. In North Vietnam I spoke with officials responsible for communication between pilots held in detention there and their families here. The following information was emphasized to me by the North Vietnamese authorities and we are anxious to make sure that you are aware of it:

- 1) The Vietnamese recommend that families use the air-letter form (enclosed) for correspondence.
- 2) Communication to pilots should be limited to matters of family and health.
- 3) Pilots are allowed to receive one letter per month and one package every other month (not over six pounds in weight).

Detention Camp authorities have said that they do not wish to receive several letters and/or packages per month for a given pilot from different members of the same family. Families should make arrangements for alternating letters each month if different members

want to write.

The North Vietnamese authorities indicated that, from this point forward, they will not feel responsible for forwarding letters and packages that do not adhere to the above.

If the letter form is mailed directly it can go in another envelope but the mail route, "via Moscow, U.S.S.R.," should definitely be included in the address. If letters are sent to the Committee of Liaison for forwarding please enclose but do not affix stamps as we send letters on in packets. The Committee cannot forward packages for families.

While I was in Hanoi, Prof. Douglas Dowd of Cornell University and I met with three pilots: Cdr. Robert Schweitzer of Lemoore, California; Cdr. Walter Wilbur of Virginia Beach and Lt. Col. Edison Miller of Santa Ana, California. The three men were in good health, and said they had daily exercise and reading material. The three pilots advised us that they had been getting letters and packages from their



Richard Fernandez memo - page 2

families, and asked that packages include toilet articles and canned foods. In particular they mentioned soap, shaving cream (no razors or blades), toothpaste, powdered milk and cream, instant coffee and non-melting candy. They said they do not need clothes.

Also, in my discussions with the Vietnam Committee of Solidarity with the American People, the Committee of Liaison's contact in North Vietnam, we confirmed that since December over 800 letters have been sent from Hanoi through the Committee of Liaison. Of those, 156 letters are still on their way from Hanoi to families here.

We hope that this information clarifies some aspects of correspondence for you. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

**WTEE OF L E N**

**with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam**

OC 100-7938

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

6

(212) 765-1490

**CABLE ADDRESS:**

**COLIAFAM**

**Co-chairmen:**

Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

**Treasurer:**

Mrs. Anne Bennett

**Committee**

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Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

May 7  
Dear Mrs. [REDACTED] b7c EO12812-2  
The letter to your husband which we  
received on April 16<sup>th</sup> was taken  
to North Vietnam by a movement  
person who left here on the 24<sup>th</sup>.  
With thanks for your kind note-

Sincerely,  
Barbara Webster

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/31/70

*b7c*  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED] Oklahoma, furnished the following information:

He is a personal friend of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and is very familiar with Mrs. [REDACTED] problems in communicating with her husband, who is a prisoner of the North Vietnamese. *b7c*

In about April, 1970, he made a business trip to New York City. This was subsequent to [REDACTED] contact with the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) in that city. It was also subsequent to the receipt of the first letter from [REDACTED] through COLIFAM. Mrs. [REDACTED] asked him to visit the offices of COLIFAM to try to find out what kind of an organization it was and he agreed to do so. *b7c*

*E012812-2*  
 After completion of his business in New York City, he went to COLIFAM Headquarters on his way to the airport. He found the headquarters located on the second floor of a dingy building. He had to ring a bell on the ground floor and a woman who identified herself as BARBARA WEBSTER came down and opened the door. He explained who he was and his purpose for coming, and she invited him to the office on the second floor. The office consisted of about 2,000 square feet of space and there were four or five desks. There were two other individuals in the office. One of these was a white male about thirty years of age with a mustache or beard. He was seated at a desk and was talking to a young white woman, who [REDACTED] assumed was the wife of a serviceman. *b7c*

[REDACTED] asked WEBSTER for her views regarding the time the U. S. prisoners would be released. He noted that Hanoi had stated they would be released at "the end of the war." He inquired as to what Hanoi meant by the end of the war. WEBSTER replied this meant the time when the United States is totally out of Vietnam. *b7c*

He told WEBSTER that he had seen some rather depressing photographs of U. S. prisoners held by the North

On 8/21/70 at [REDACTED] Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 100-7938  
 by SA [REDACTED] *b7c* Date dictated 8/27/70

Vietnamese and yet recent photos in Look magazine showed the U. S. prisoners in good health. He asked WEBSTER if some prisoners were treated different than others or if all prisoners were treated in the same manner. WEBSTER replied that all of the prisoners receive the same humane treatment. She stated Hanoi had imported wheat especially to make bread for the U.S. prisoners. The Vietnamese do not eat bread. The U. S. prisoners now receive a loaf of bread each day.

[REDACTED] <sup>b7c</sup> noted that the correspondence forms furnished to the wives of prisoners were addressed directly to Hanoi while the same forms furnished by COLIFAM were addressed to Hanoi "Via Moscow." He asked which was the proper address. WEBSTER replied that it was best to use the Moscow address.

He noted that recently a peace group had returned to California from North Vietnam, and reportedly had brought over a hundred letters from U. S. prisoners. He asked if there was a letter for [REDACTED] from her husband. WEBSTER referred to a card file and said her records disclosed no letter had been received for Mrs. [REDACTED] in addition to the one already sent her.

E012712-2

He asked if it would be best for Mrs. [REDACTED] <sup>b7c</sup> to have her letters to her husband forwarded through COLIFAM. She replied that this would not result in any particular advantage but the organization would be glad to forward such letters.

[REDACTED] <sup>b7c</sup> said his conference with WEBSTER was very low key. She did not appear to be pushing or selling anything. There was no discussion as to how letters from the U. S. prisoners were received by COLIFAM.

He asked how the organization obtained the money to operate, and WEBSTER replied it was obtained through contributions. She also said their operating costs did not amount to much. He asked if they solicited contributions from the wives of U. S. prisoners. She replied that such contributions were not solicited, but they would be accepted.

[REDACTED] <sup>b7c</sup> then asked her views on the opportunity for the release of U. S. prisoners. She replied that the North Vietnamese do not take the matter seriously. They can not believe the United States can attach so much importance to such a small number of men. She further stated that North Vietnam is a poor, oppressed country with very little military equipment available. They feel that the U. S. prisoners are one of the few things they have to use as bargaining power.

*b7c*  
[REDACTED] then asked if it would be better for Mrs. [REDACTED] to use the six line letter form supplied by the North Vietnamese, pointing out that wives of some of the prisoners are writing rather lengthy letters on regular stationery. She replied that use of the form does ~~increase~~ the chances of the letter being delivered, and it would not hurt to use the form.

*b7c*  
Ed12812-2 WEBSTER furnished [REDACTED] some of the letter forms for delivery to Mrs. [REDACTED]



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)

DATE: 9/17/70

FROM: SAC, MIAMI (100-15995) (P)

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES  
OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN  
NORTH VIET NAM  
(COLIFAM)  
IS - MISC; REGISTRATION ACT  
(OO: NEW YORK)

Re Miami airtel to Bureau 7/13/70.

In efforts to interview Mrs. [REDACTED]  
wife of [REDACTED] Serial Number [REDACTED]  
Miami checked her listed residence on numerous  
occasions at [REDACTED] Miami, but  
no one was at home.

On August 31, 1970, Mrs. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Miami advised she had been  
away on vacation for several weeks. She said that  
she is the mother of Mrs. [REDACTED]  
who has moved to [REDACTED] Washington.

E012812-2

LEAD

SEATTLE

WASHINGTON

Will interview Mrs. [REDACTED] wife of  
[REDACTED] a POW, in accordance with  
instructions set out in New York airtel to Bureau,  
June 9, 1970.

Miami is continuing efforts to interview families  
of servicemen who may have been contacted by COLIFAM.

② - Bureau (RM)

2 - New York (100-168469 (RM) 1 - Miami

ST-129

REC-52

2 - Seattle (RM)

1 - Miami

SEP 21 1970



54 SEP 30 1970

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OTHERWISE

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)  
FROM: SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (100-15134) (P)

DATE: 9/16/70

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH  
FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED  
IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)  
IS - MISC  
REGISTRATION ACT

OO: NEW YORK

Re Springfield airtel 9/8/70.

Recipient offices are being advised that Mrs. [REDACTED] Minn., (Page 2 of re communication) had already been interviewed in the past and results appropriately recorded and submitted.

E012812-2

- 2 - Bureau (RM)
- 1 - New York (INFO) (RM)
- 1 - Springfield (100-1042) (RM)
- 1 - Minneapolis

REC-51 100-457899-120

ST-111

SEP 18 1970

(5)

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INT. SEC.

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